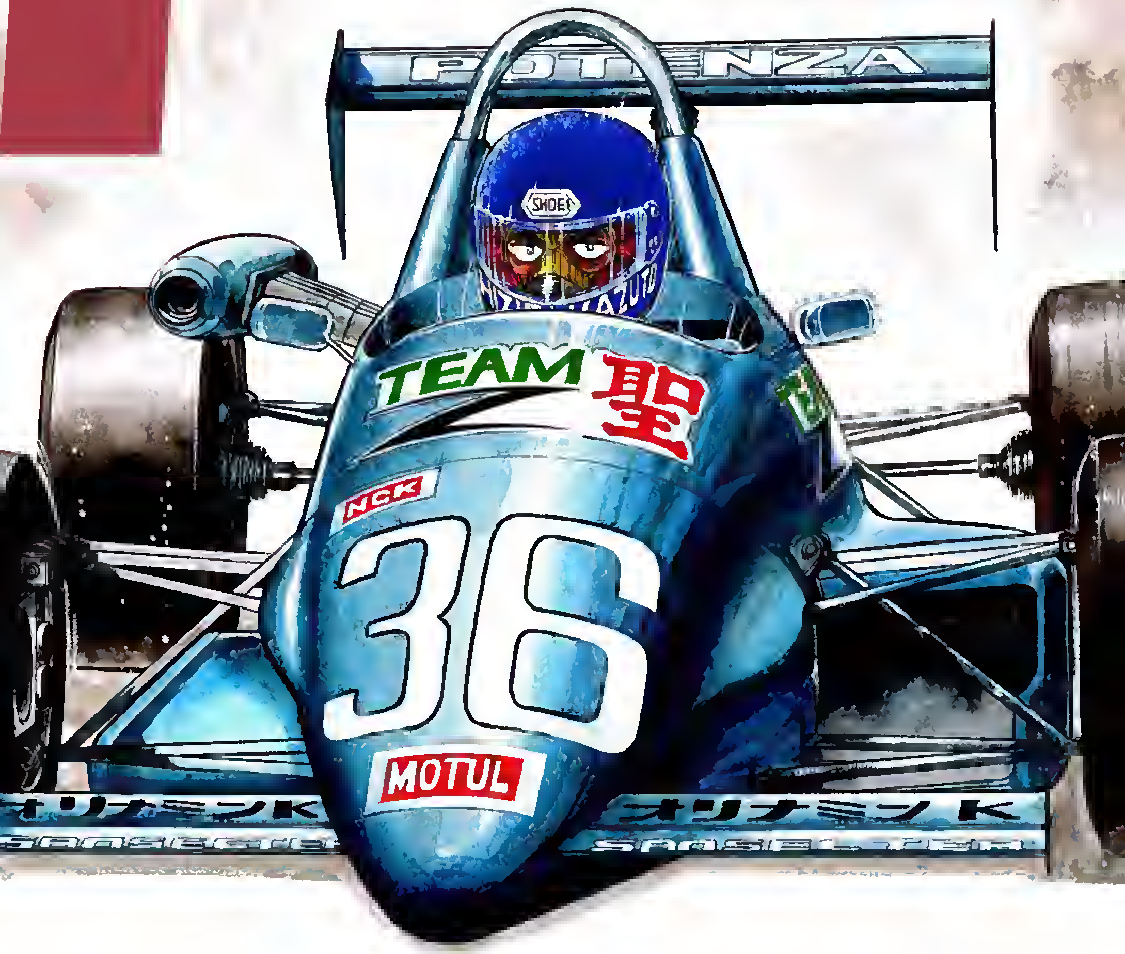
Vol. 7

ROKUDA NOBORU

F
VOL.7

F

NOBORU ROKUDA



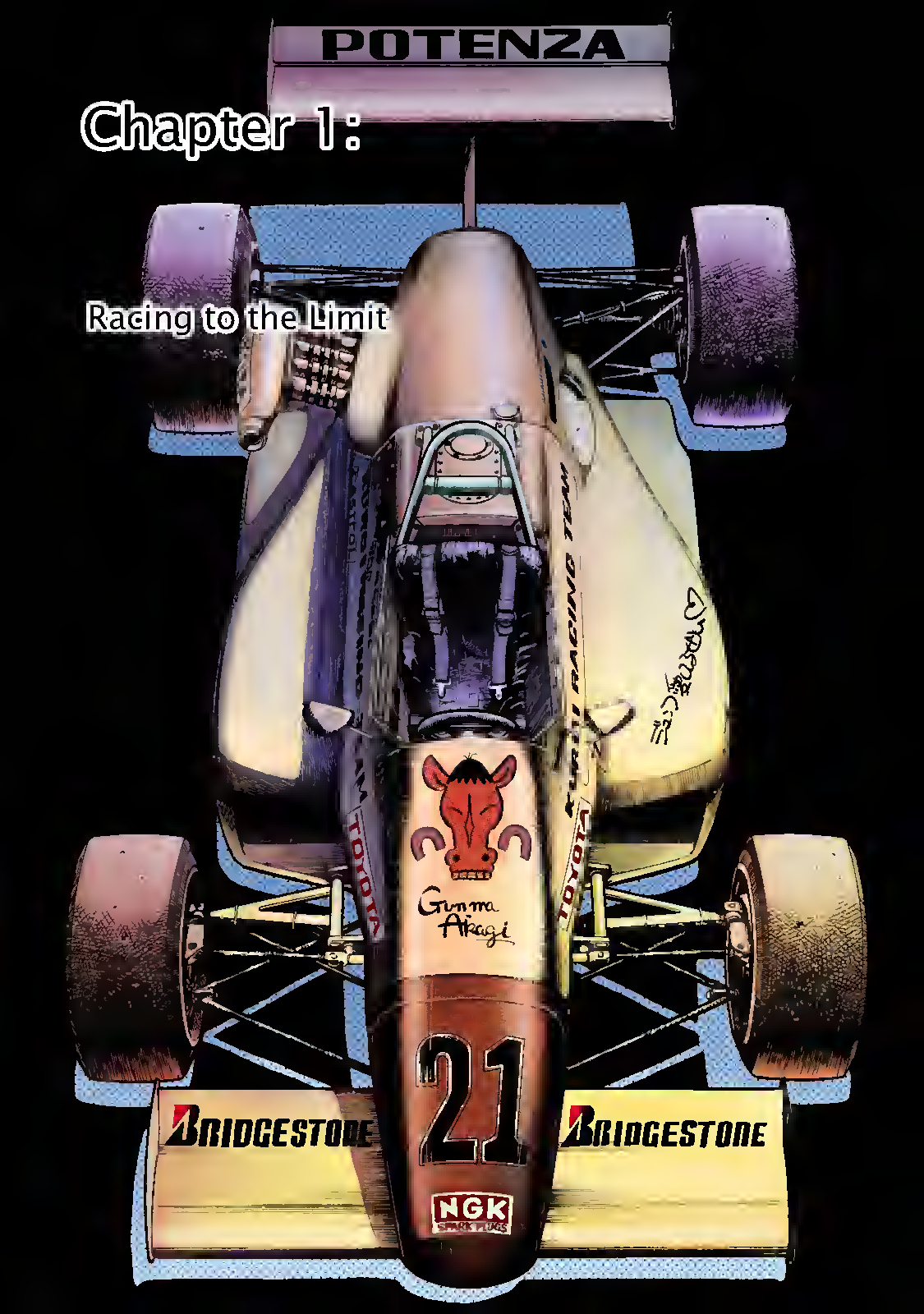
VOL.7

RACING TO THE LIMIT

F

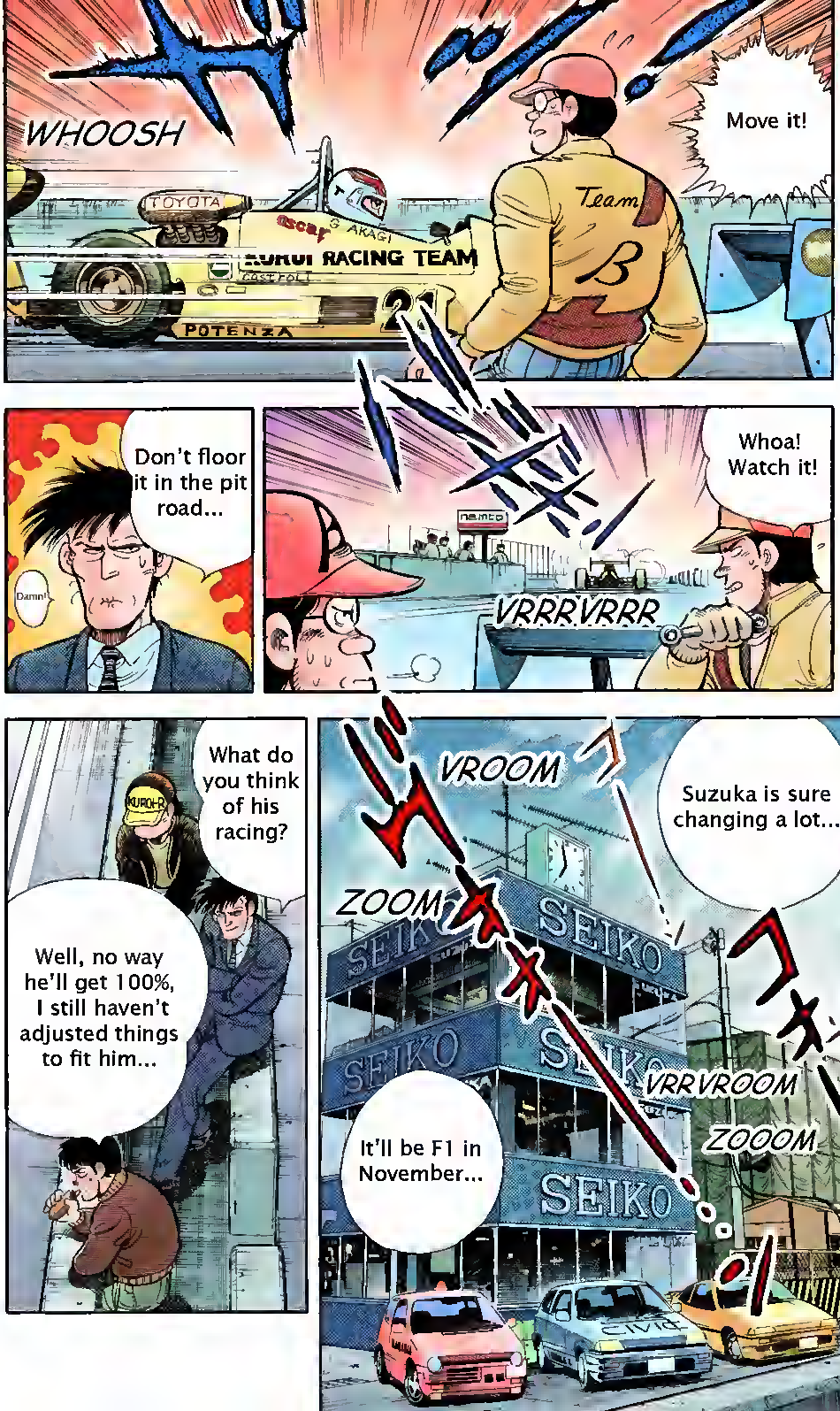
VOL. 7
RACING TO THE LIMIT

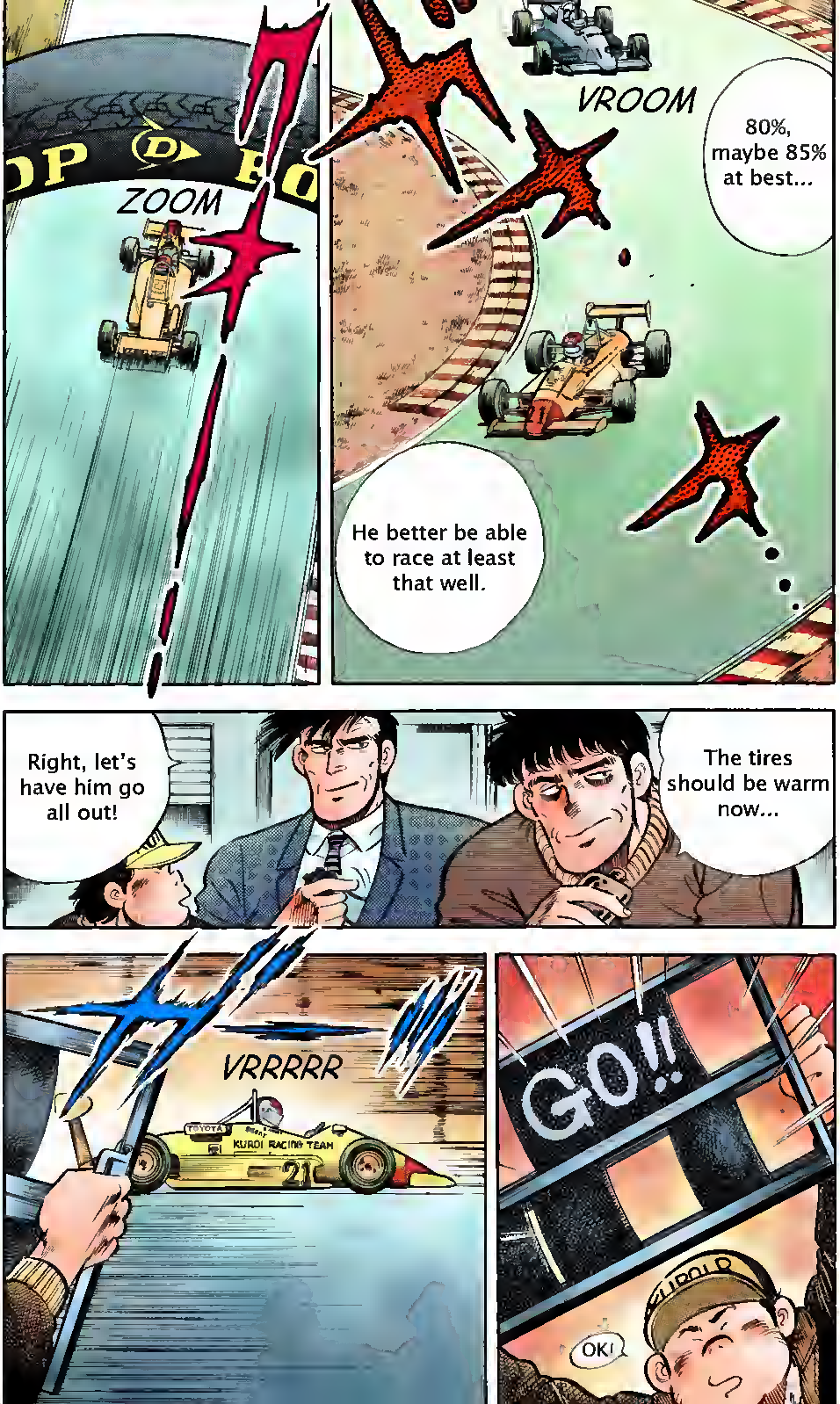
Chapter 1: Racing to the Limit
Chapter 2: Driver's Domain
Chapter 3: Hidden Strength
Chapter 4: Preliminary Begins
Chapter 5: Final (1)
Chapter 6: Final (2)
Chapter 7: Final (3)
Chapter 8: Final (4)
Chapter 9: Final (5)
Chapter 10: Final (6)
Chapter 11: Final (7)
Chapter 12: Final (8)

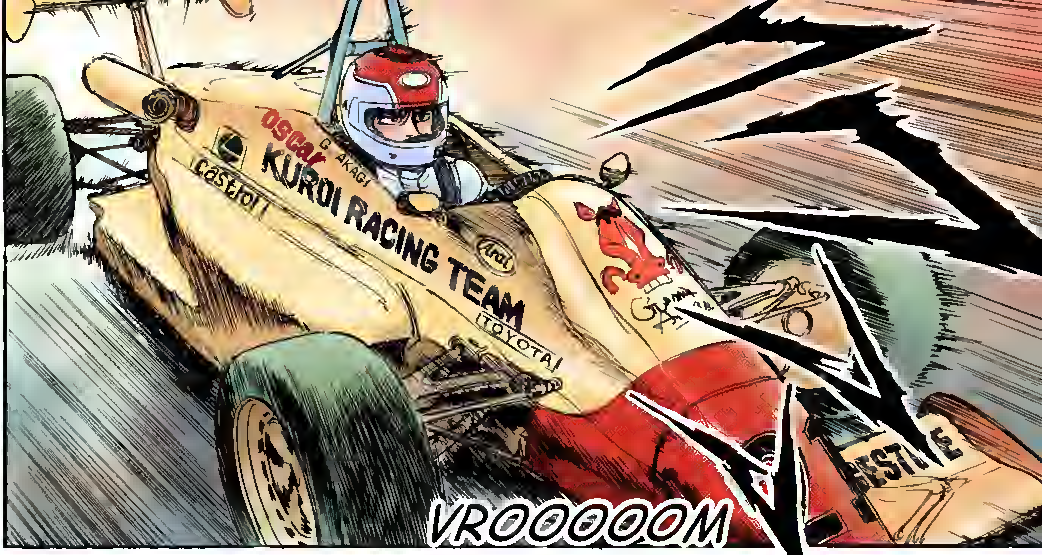

POTENZA
Chapter 1:
Racing to the Limit
TOYOTA
TOYOTA
Gunma
Akagi
21
BRIDGESTONE
BRIDGESTONE
NGK
SPARK PLUGS

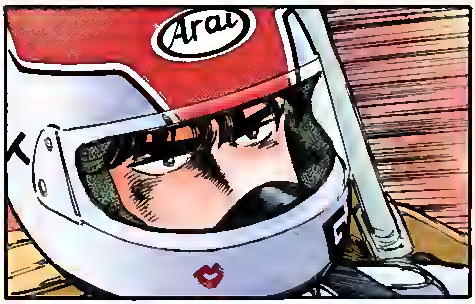
Just push it to the limit!
Find out what limits you and the car have!
VROOOM
Push it as hard as you can!
Don't worry about wrecking the car.
VROO
VRRR
I get it already!
I heard you, old man.
That's the point of practice.
Look, damn it! Practice isn't supposed to be a competition!
There's just no challenge without them.
"They"?
By the way, it doesn't look like they came today.
Hijiri and Tamotsu.
COOL RACING

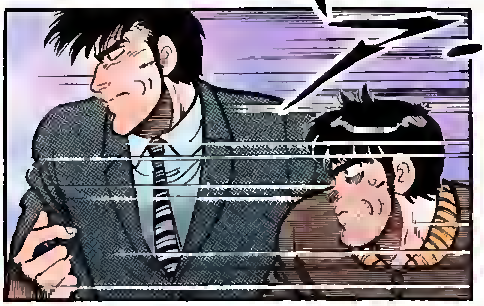
STUMBLE
Your image training time was 2:07.30.
If you need to compete, compete with yourself!
Try and beat that... even by a second.
Damn drunk!
ちえっ 酔っぱらいが!
Just watch!
...
VROOM
If you use 100% of this machine's potential, you should get a time of 2:06.
Hic! That's the spirit...
THUMP
Ha! No problem!
I drive a lot faster than I can imagine!
ヤメテ
BAROOOM
BABANG


WHOOSH
Move it!
TOYOTA
RACING TEAM
POTENZA
Team B
Don't floor it in the pit road...
Damn!
Whoa! Watch it!
VRRRVRRR
What do you think of his racing?
Well, no way he'll get 100%, I still haven't adjusted things to fit him...
VROOM
ZOOM
Suzuka is sure changing a lot...
SEIKO
VRRVROOM
ZOOOM
It'll be F1 in November...

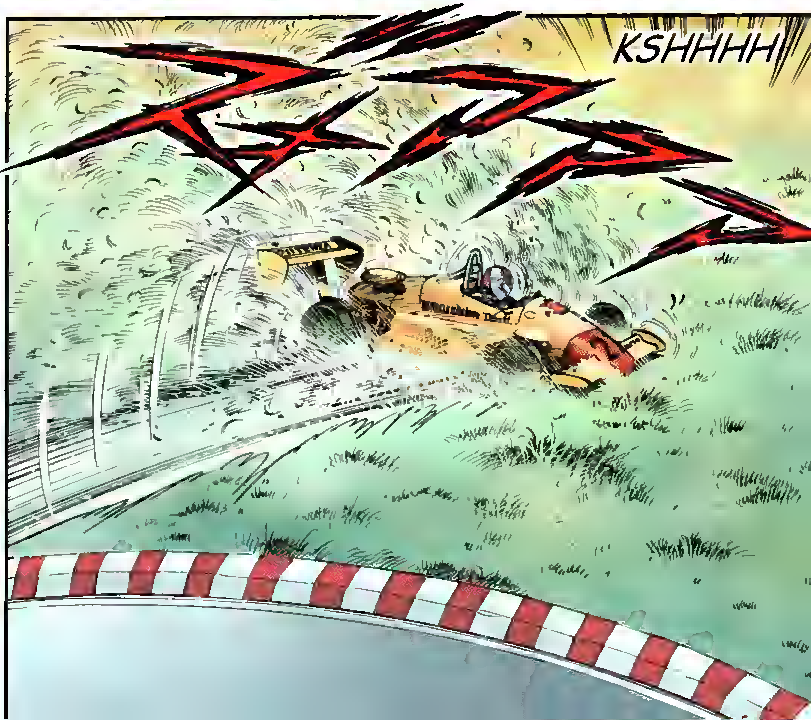

ZOOM
VROOM
80%, maybe 85% at best...
He better be able to race at least that well.
Right, let's have him go all out!
The tires should be warm now...
VRRRRR
TOYOTA
KURDI RACING TEAM
21
GO!!
OK!


Castrol
Oscar
KUROI RACING TEAM
TOYOTA
Arai
VROOOOOM

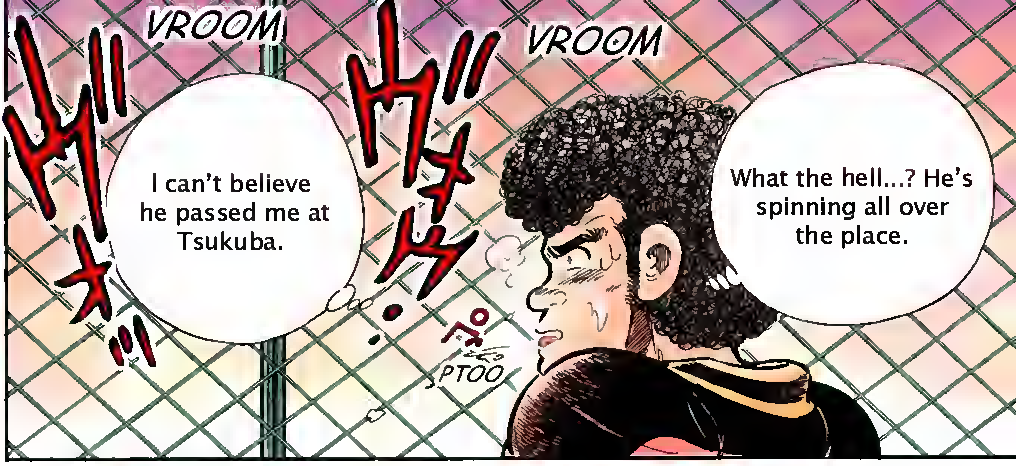

Arai

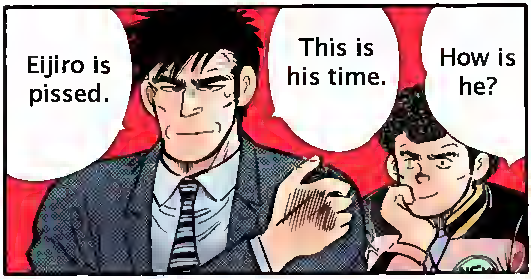


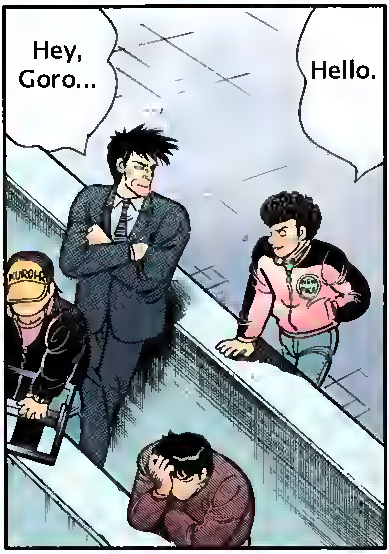
...
And there he goes...

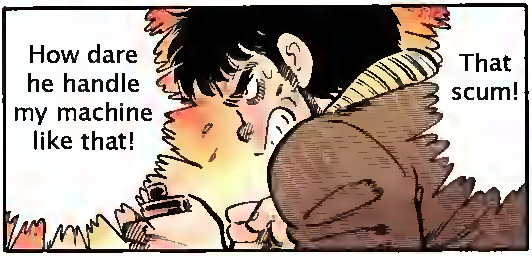

KSHHHH

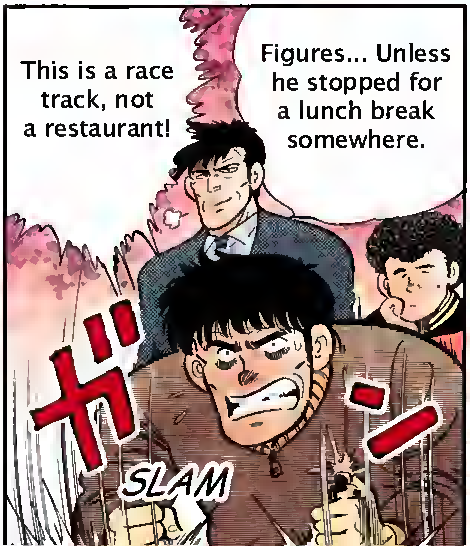
VAROOOM
Heh heh heh...
KRSHHHH
Whoa!
...

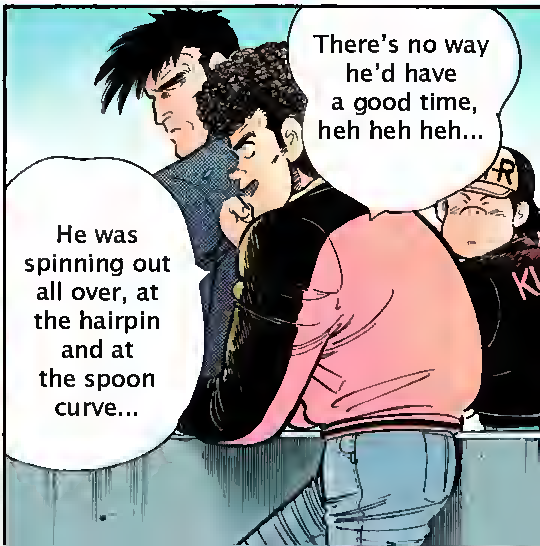

VROOM
VROOM
I can't believe he passed me at Tsukuba.
What the hell...? He's spinning all over the place.
PTOO


Eijiro is pissed.
This is his time.
How is he?


Hey, Goro...
Hello.

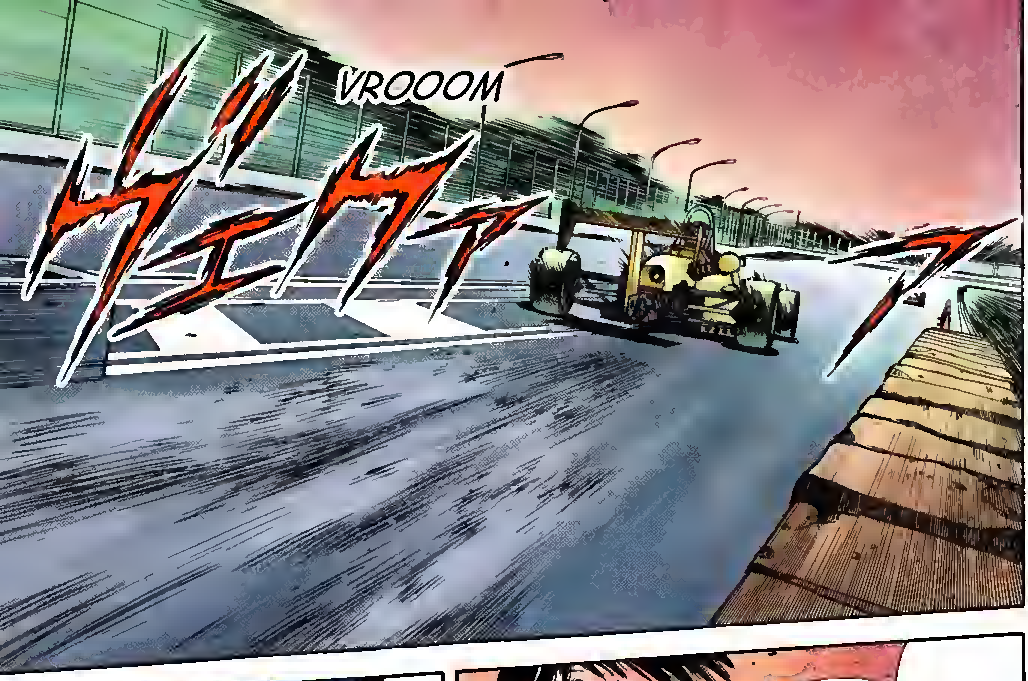

How dare he handle my machine like that!
That scum!

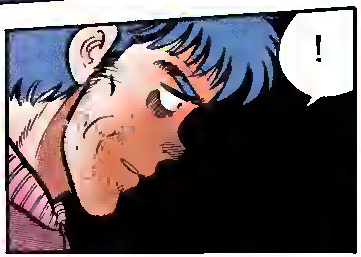

This is a race track, not a restaurant!
Figures... Unless he stopped for a lunch break somewhere.
ガーン
SLAM


There's no way he'd have a good time, heh heh heh...
He was spinning out all over, at the hairpin and at the spoon curve...

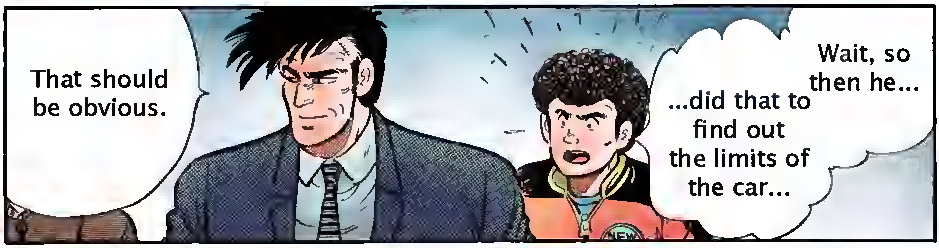
Let's go!
TAP
Easy, Eijiro.
VRRR
Speak of the devil...
namco
...
Hey, if it isn't Goro!
POP
Phew, gimme some water!
Still haven't found a job, huh!?
Quite a show there, how many times did you spin?
36 total...
!?
What's with the long face, Eijiro?
No kidding! Just what I'd expect from Tamotsu's pop!
I'm surprised the suspension managed to hold out.
HEHEHEH

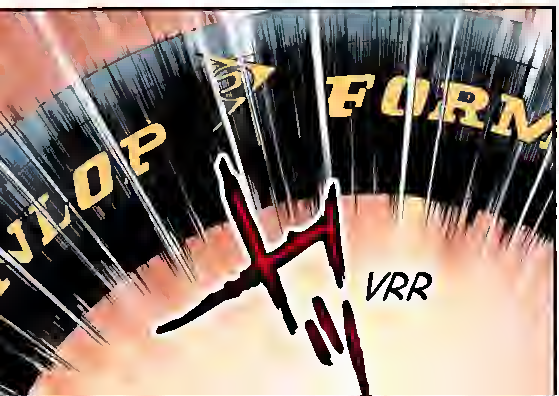
If you're just screwing around, quit now.
Goro still hasn't quit officially... He can take your place any time!
YANK
Yeah! Yeah!
NEW FACE
...you said a time of 2:06 at 100%, right?
Heh...
Eijiro, old man...
!
...so let go.
I'll show you right now...

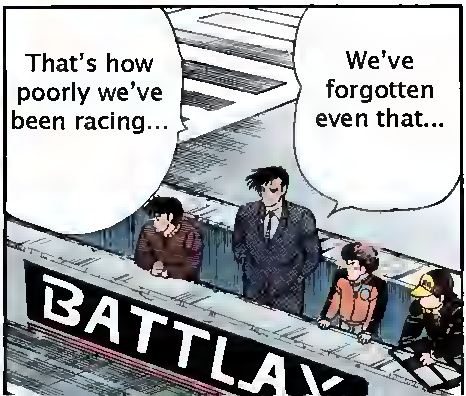

VROOOM


!

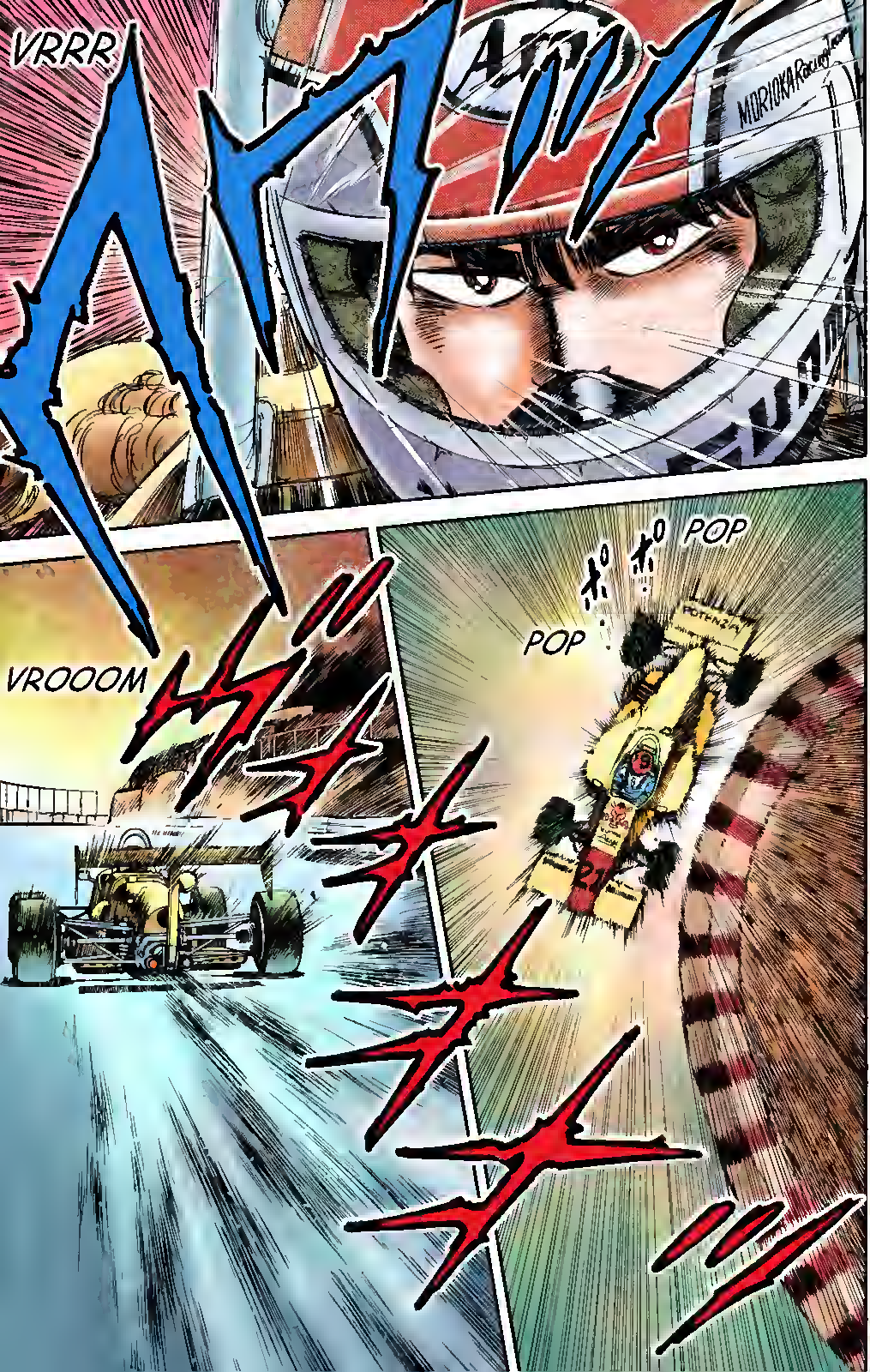
Remember, Eijiro...
Even Nakajima and Hoshino spin out all the time during practice...

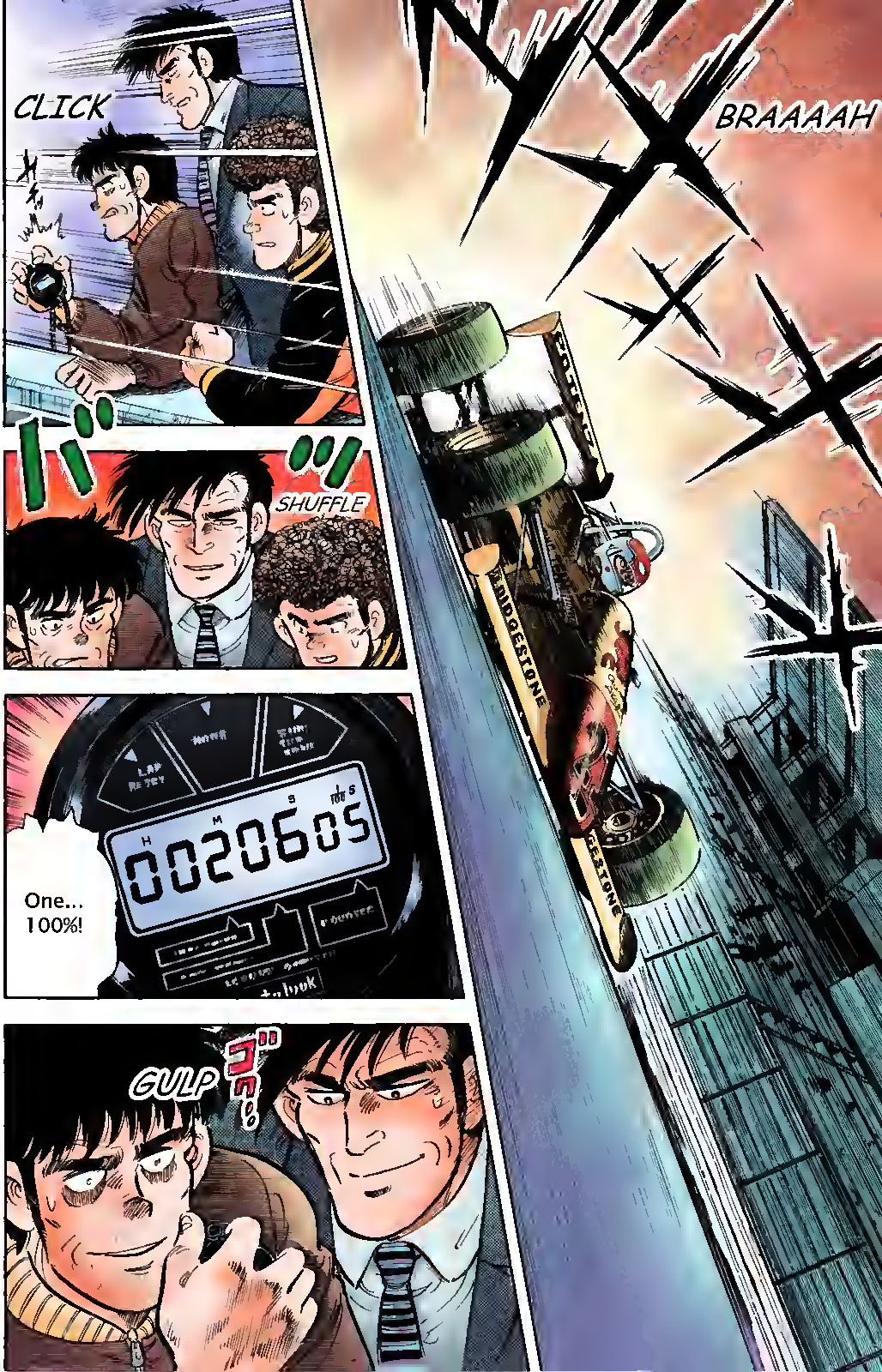

That should be obvious.
Wait, so then he...
...did that to find out the limits of the car...


VRR

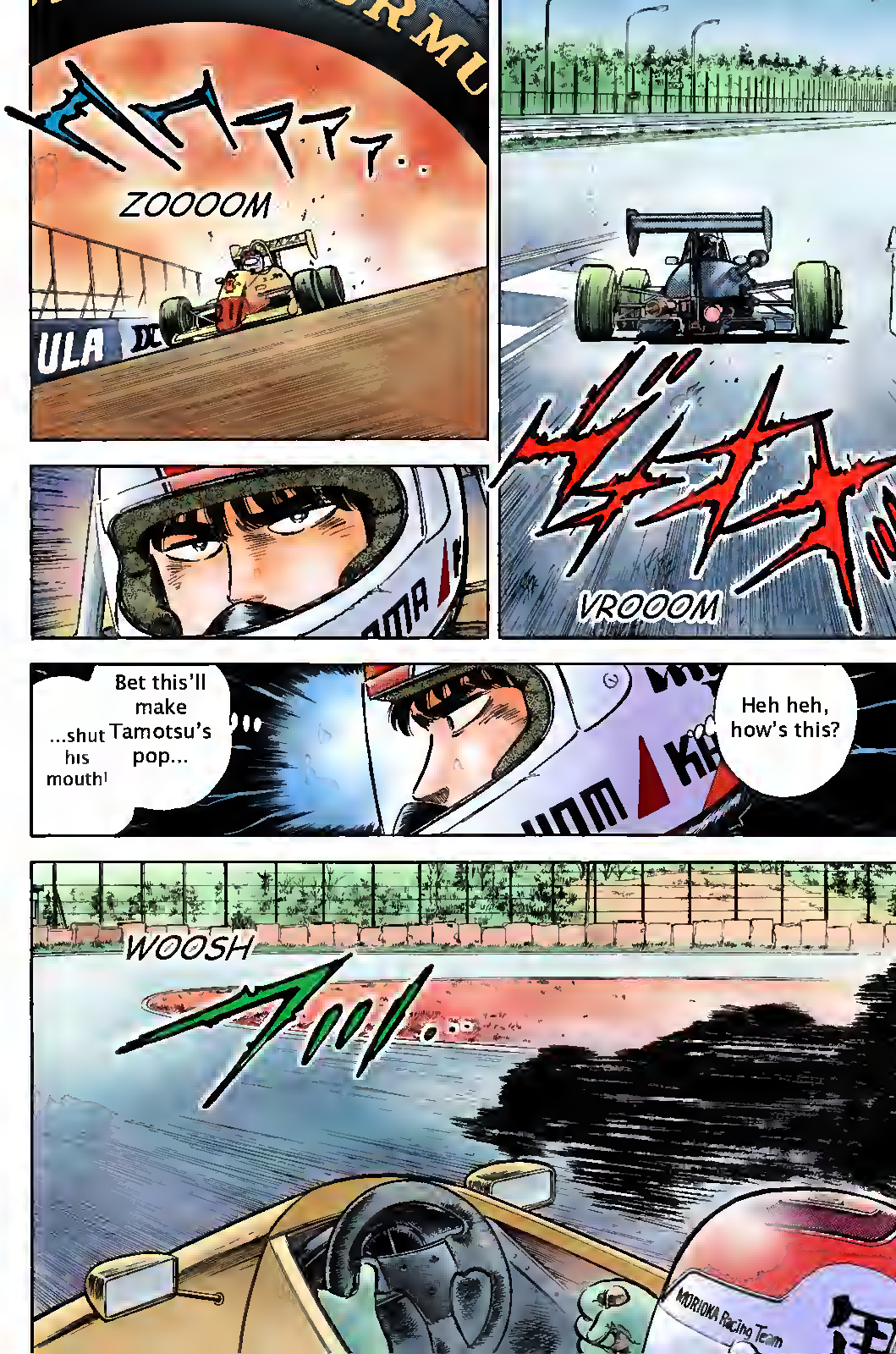

That's how poorly we've been racing...
We've forgotten even that...

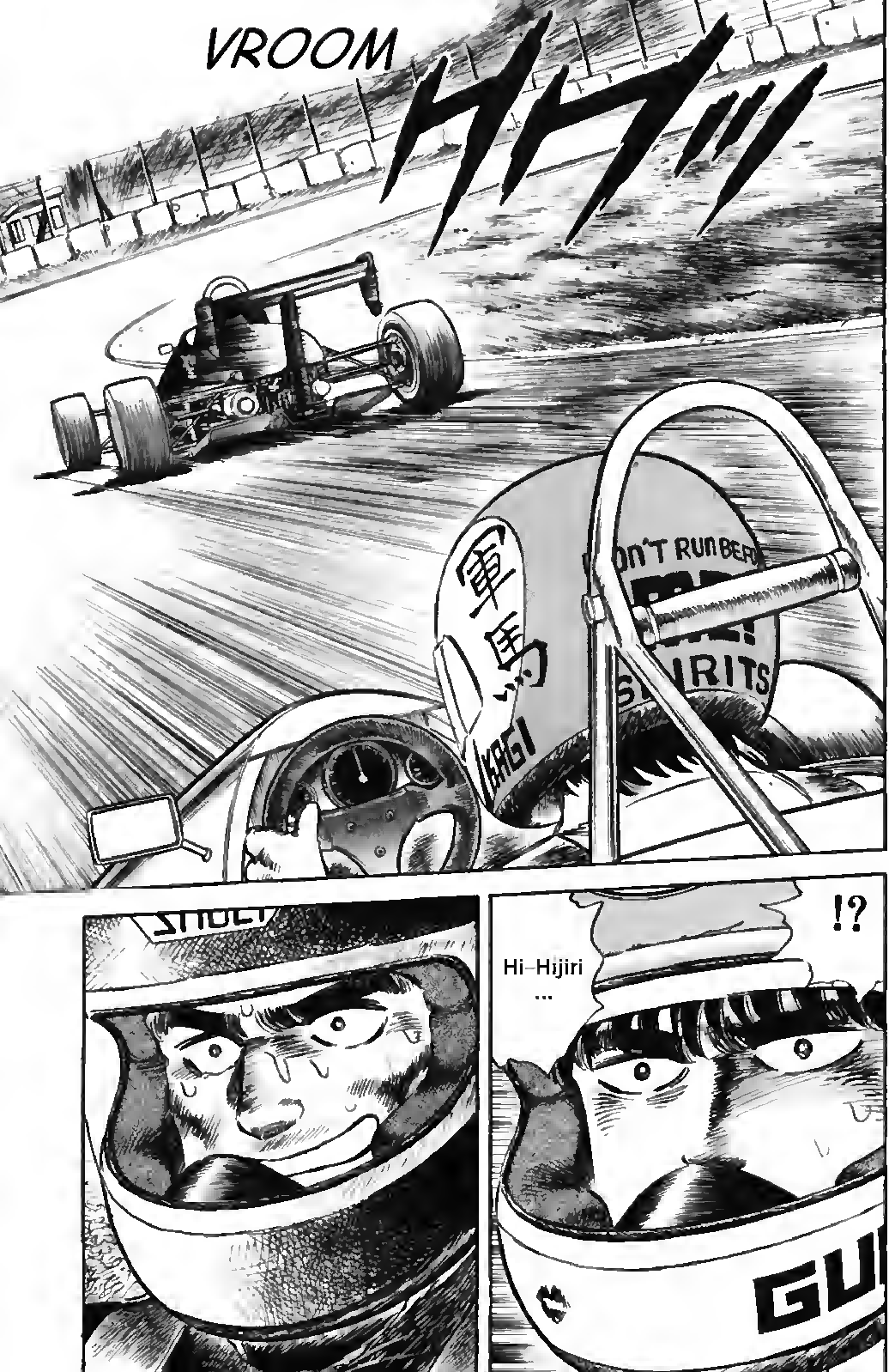
VAROOOM
80R

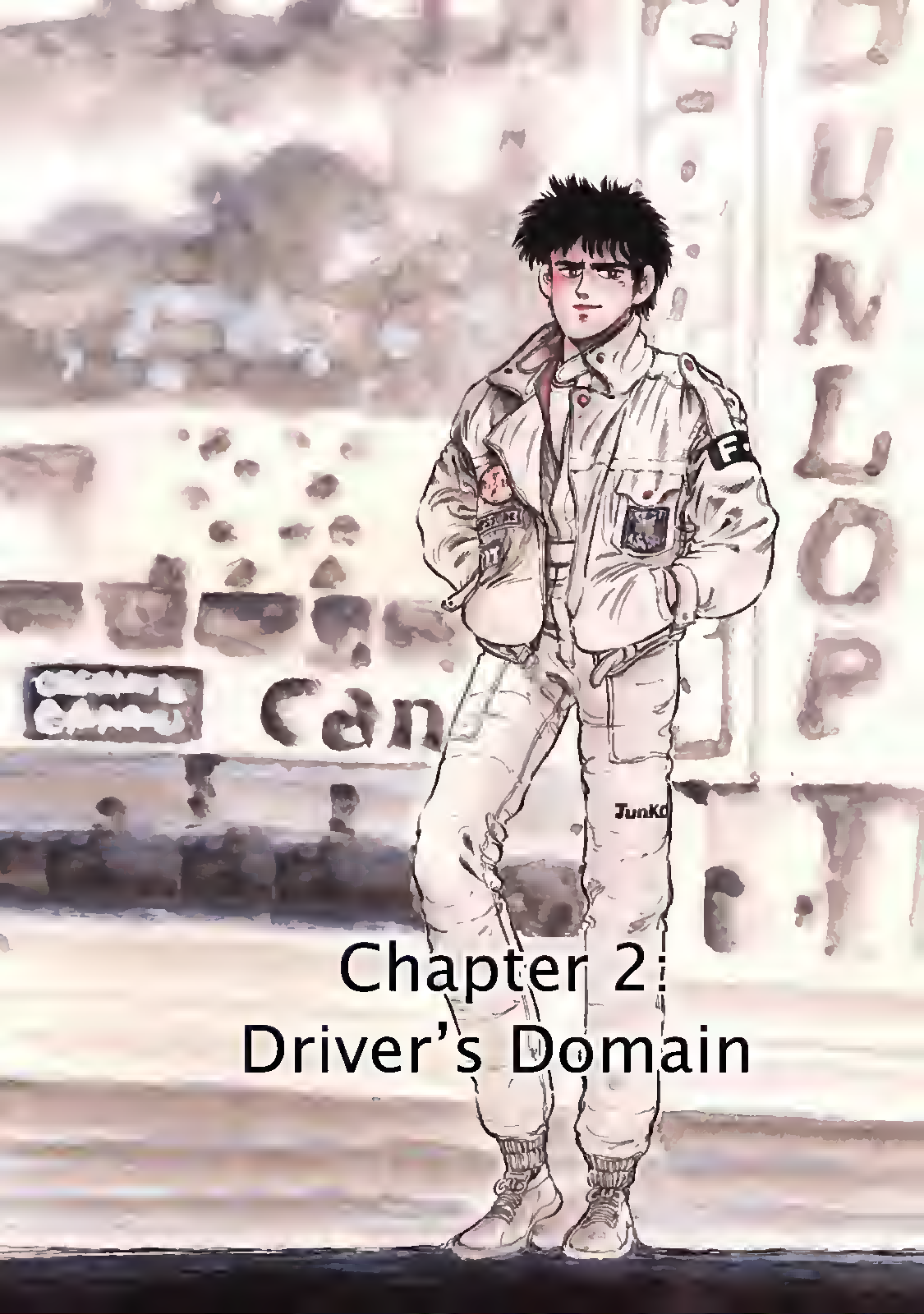

VRRR
MIURA
POP
POP
VROOOM
POTENZA
21


CLICK
BRAAAAH
SHUFFLE
0020605
One...
100%!
GULP

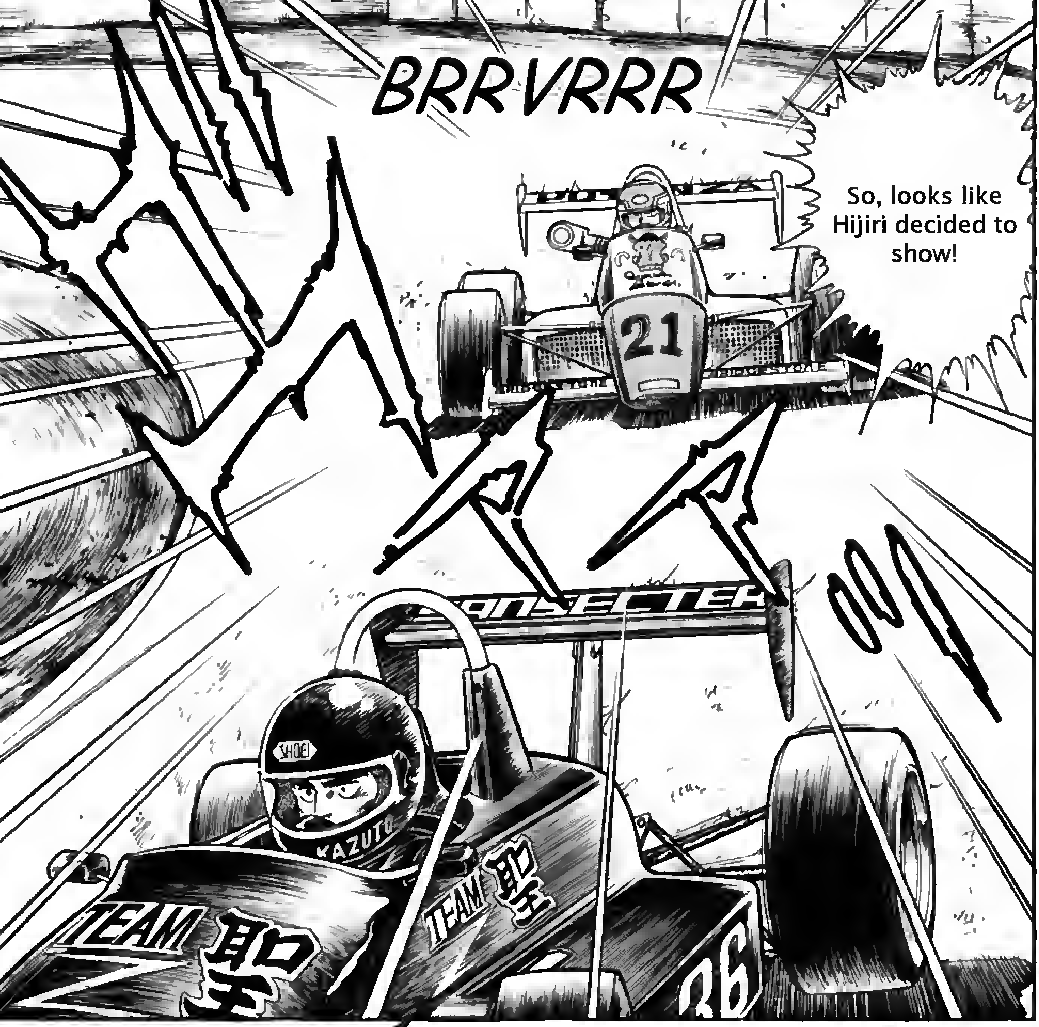
Yeah.
You all right?
Any time.
Ready?
VRRVRRR

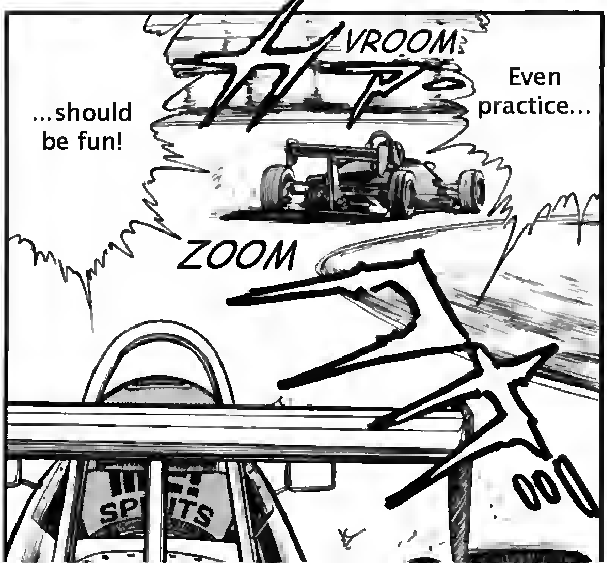

ZOOOOM
VROOOM
Bet this'll make Tamotsu's pop...
...shut his mouth!
Heh heh, how's this?
WOOSH
MORIOKA Racing Team


VROOM
ヴヴヴ
軍馬
IKAGI
!?
Hi-Hijiri
...

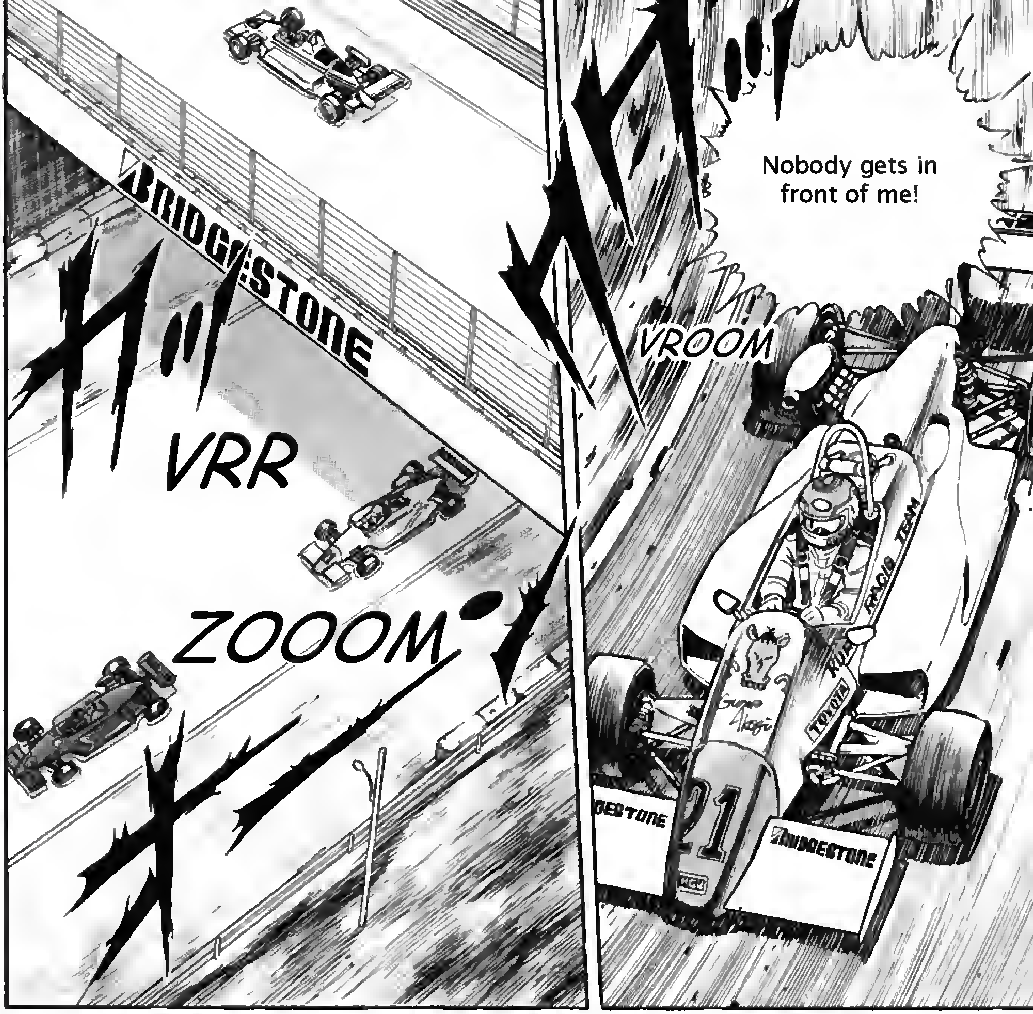


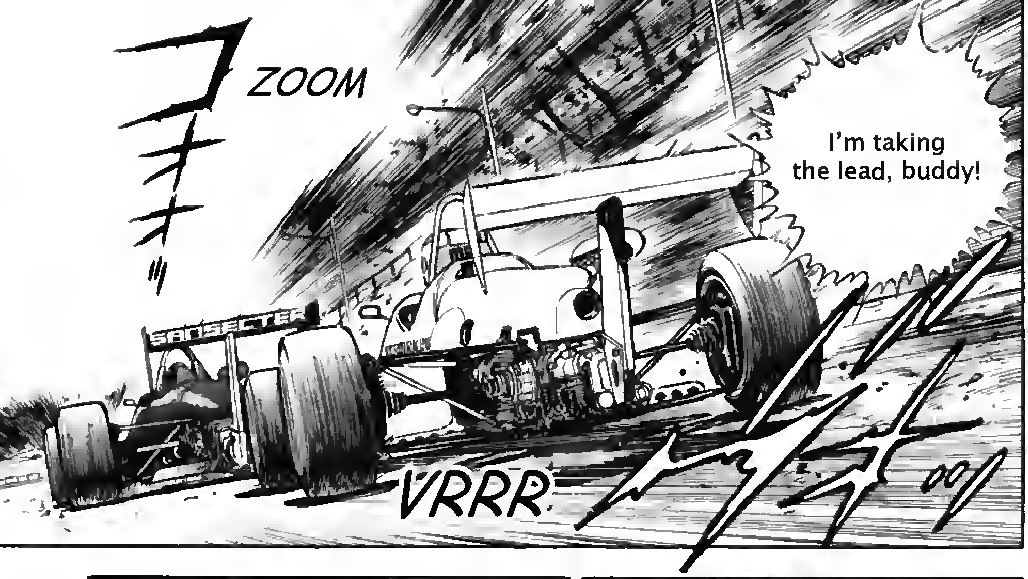
Chapter 2: Driver's Domain


BRRVRRR
So, looks like Hijiri decided to show!
21
TEAM 聖
TEAM 聖
86

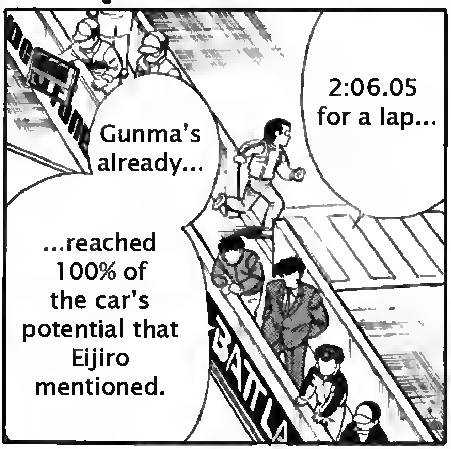

VROOM
Even practice...
...should be fun!
ZOOM

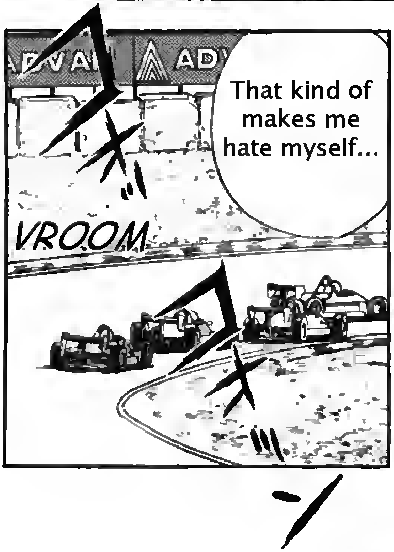
Heh heh, now things are gettin' interesting!

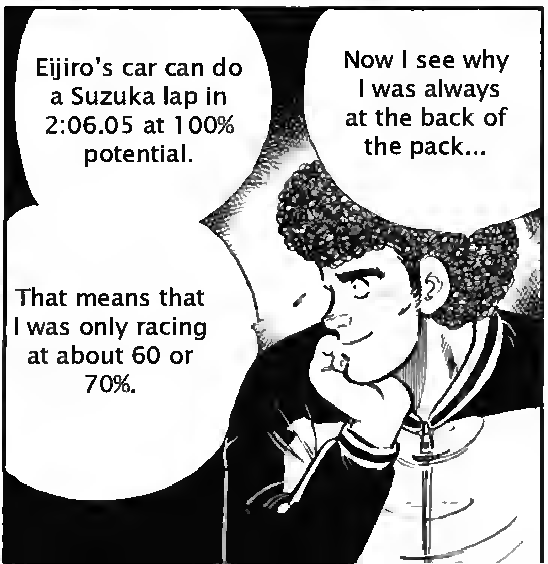

BRIDGESTONE
VRR
ZOOOM
VROOM
Nobody gets in front of me!
21
TOYOTA
TEAM
But now it's my turn to pass ya!
After all, I'm going all out at 100% here!
MORIOKA RACING
KAGI
Heh, you sure are pouring it on, Hijiri! Zippin' past me at the entrance to the Degner...
MORIOKA


ZOOM
I'm taking the lead, buddy!
VRRR

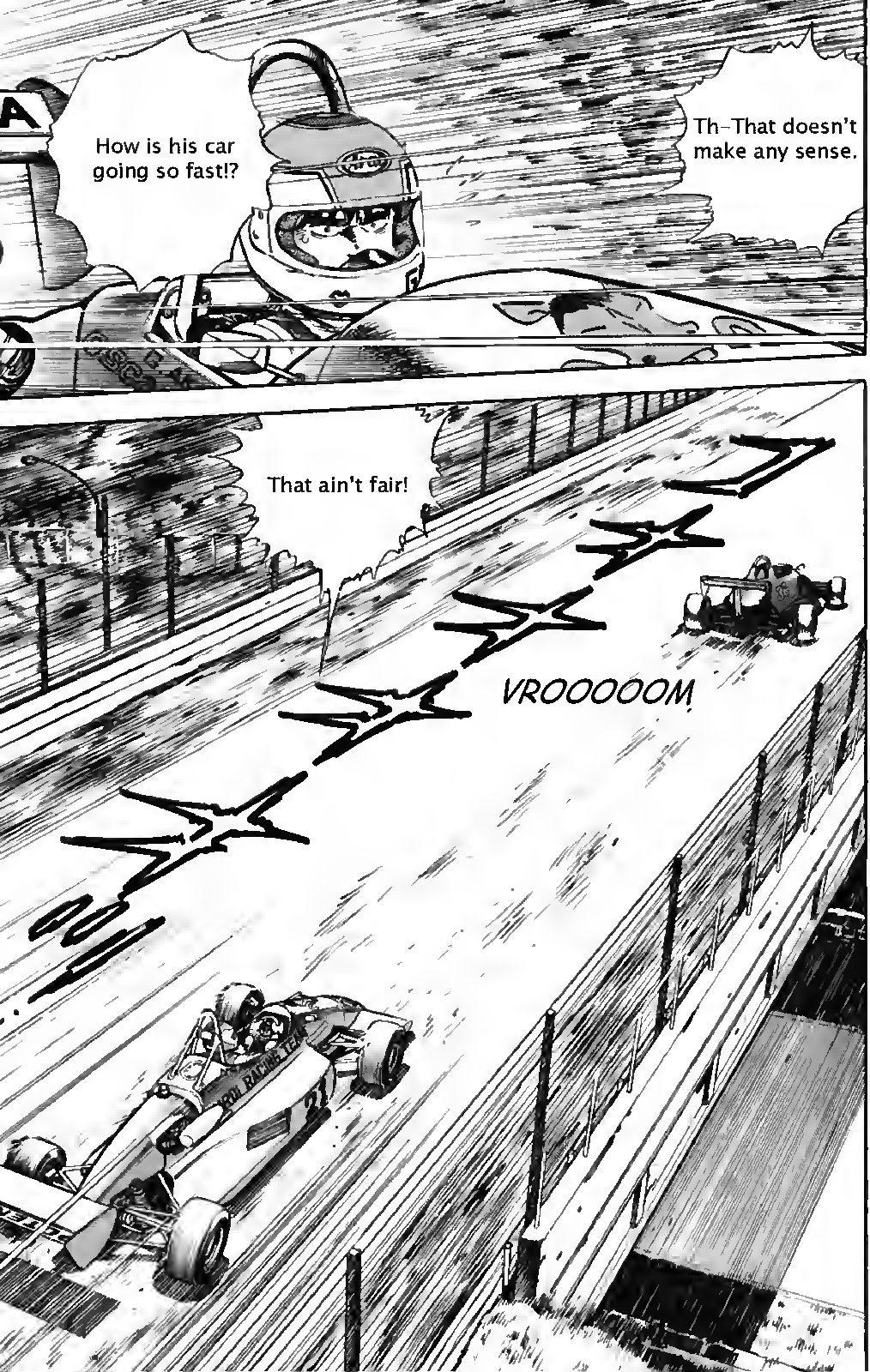
I won't be racing anymore...
I guess I'm gonna have to admit defeat now.
Man...


2:06.05 for a lap...
Gunma's already...
...reached 100% of the car's potential that Eijiro mentioned.

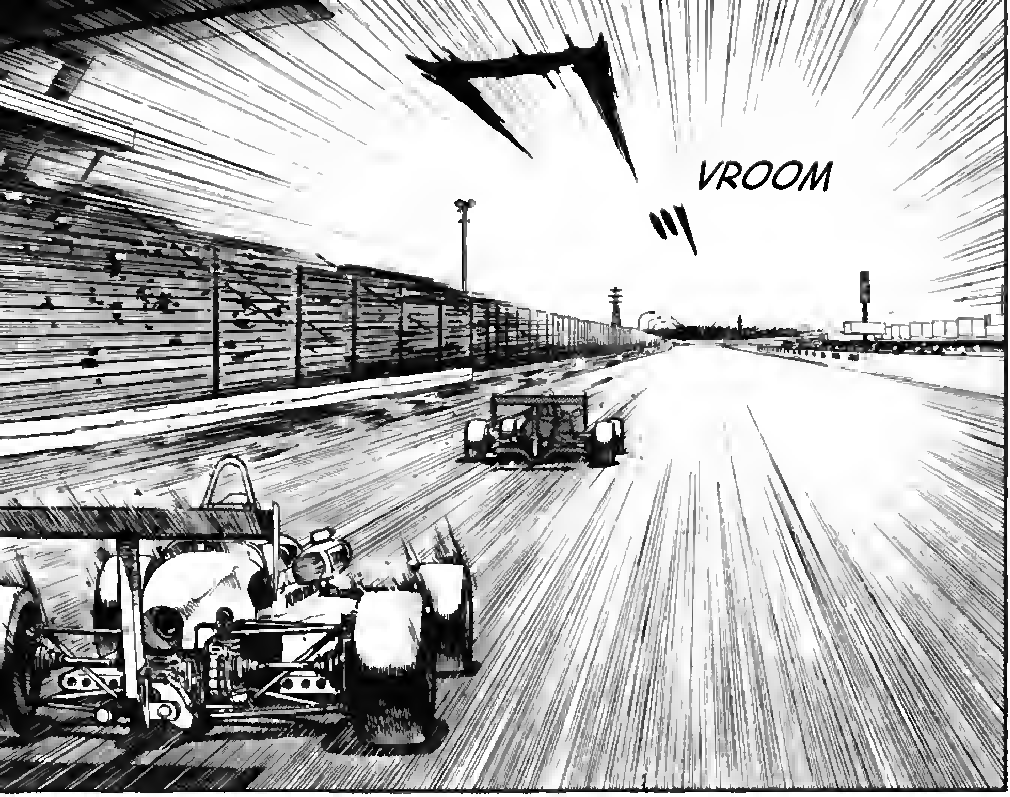

That kind of makes me hate myself...
VROOM


Eijiro's car can do a Suzuka lap in 2:06.05 at 100% potential.
Now I see why I was always at the back of the pack...
That means that I was only racing at about 60 or 70%.

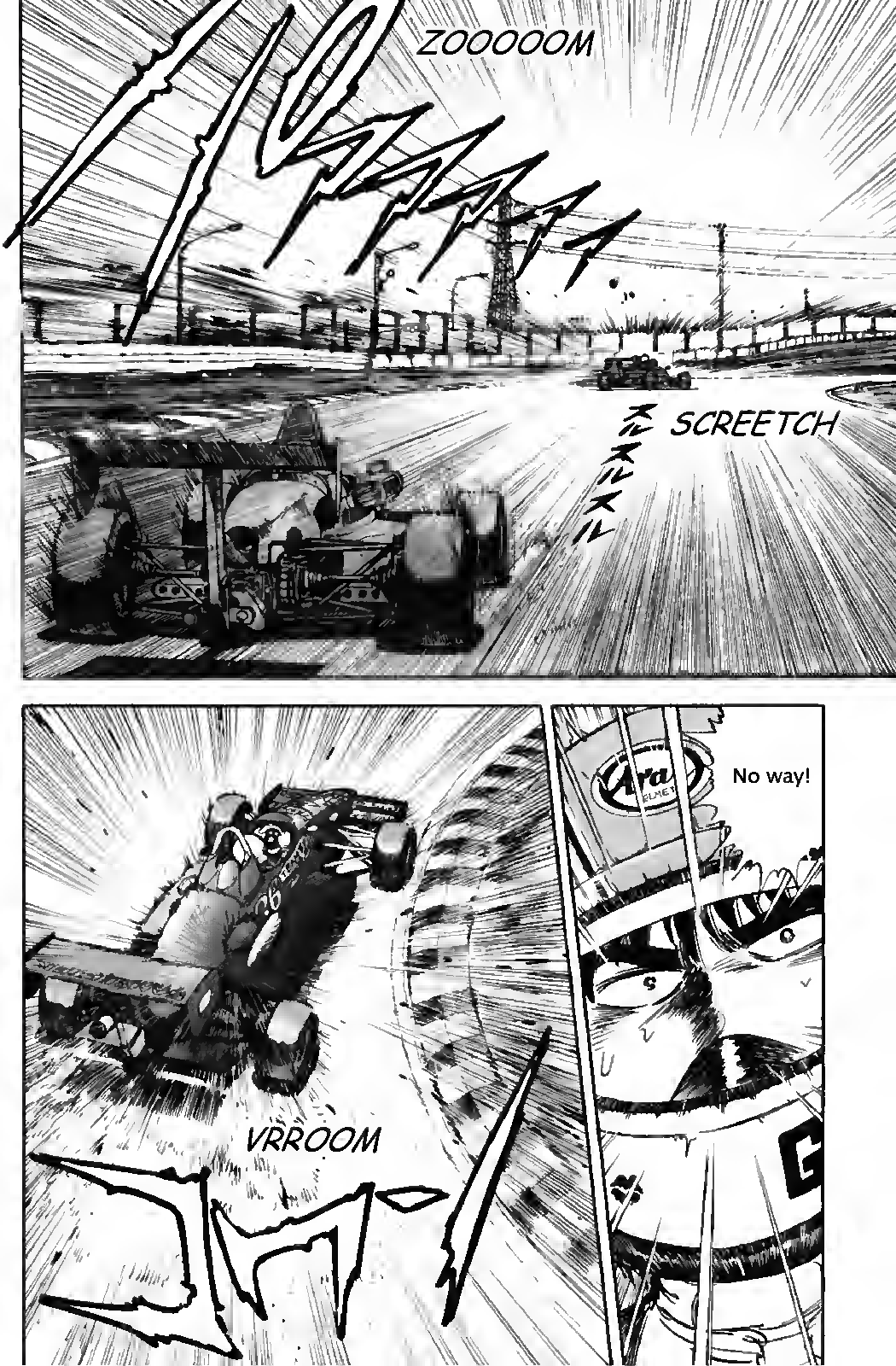
The car is already being pushed to its limit!
B-But, there's no way to get a better time than that!
NEW FACE
That doesn't mean that Gunma Akagi won't end up in last himself.
Still, Goro...
?
See, that's what makes it a race...
It's a strange thing.
Ha ha ha... Funny thing is, it can be done...
KAZUTO
What's with him?
Wha..
GUNMA
ZOOM
Hijiri!
POTENZA

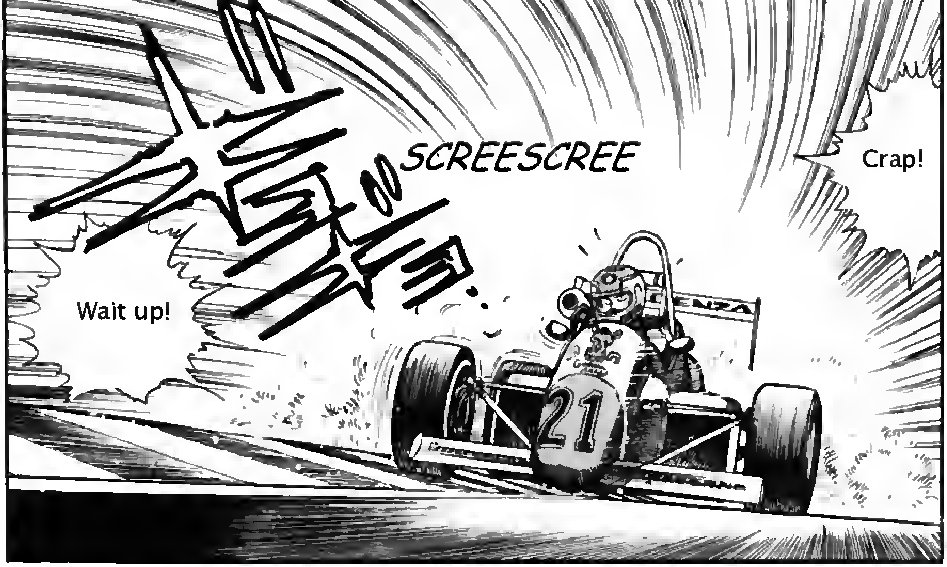

How is his car going so fast!?
Th-That doesn't make any sense.
That ain't fair!
VROOOOOM

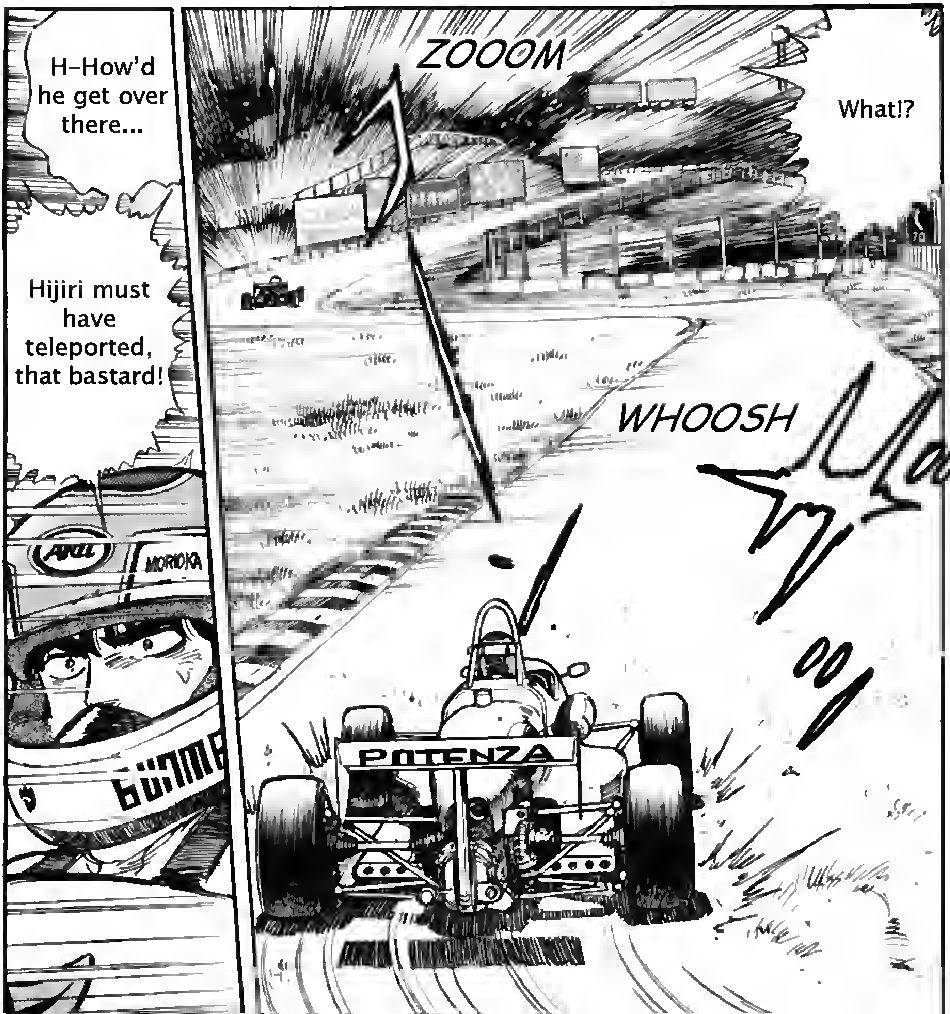
There he is...
Hey, he's behind Hijiri's car!
KURO
-R
D-Damn it... Nobody gets in...
VRRRR
VROOOM
KURO RACING TEAM
21
36
One lap left.
Hmph, that black car is racing like a champ...
The time!?
2:06.03! Better than before!
Yeah.
TEAM
Disturbingly so...

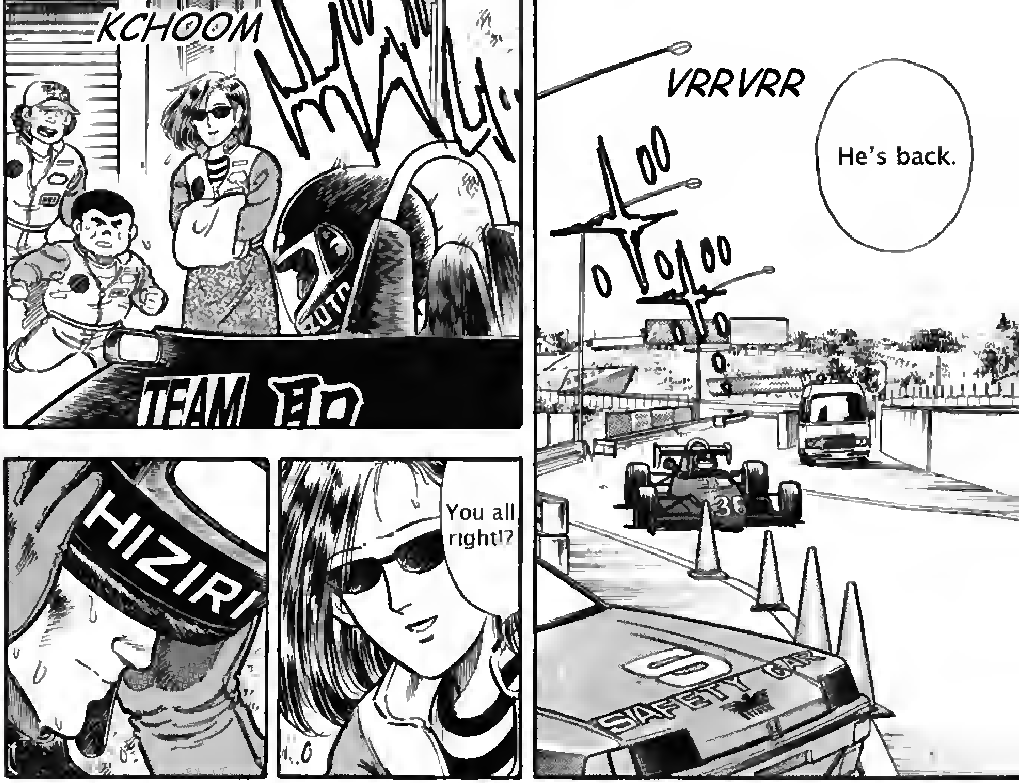

VROOM

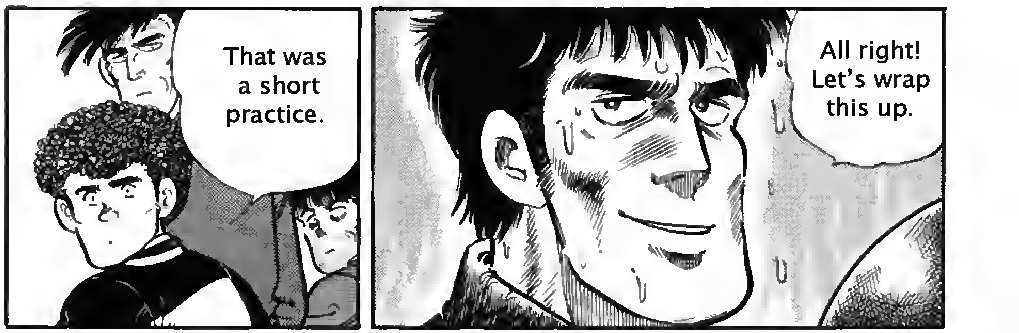
VROOOOM
Heh heh, Hijiri...!

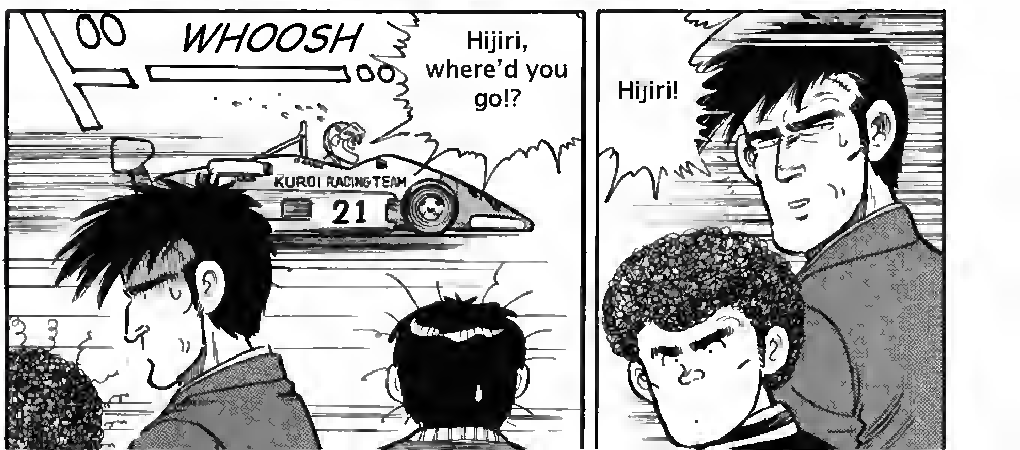

ZOOOOOM
SCREETCH
No way!
VRROOM


SCREESCREE
Crap!
Wait up!
21


H-How'd he get over there...
Hijiri must have teleported, that bastard!
ZOOOM
What!?
WHOOSH
ARAI
MORIOKA
PITENZA


KCHOOM
TEAM
VRRVRR
He's back.
HIZIRI
You all right!?
SAFETY CAR


That was a short practice.
All right! Let's wrap this up.


WHOOSH
Hijiri, where'd you go!?
KUROI RACING TEAM
21
Hijiri!

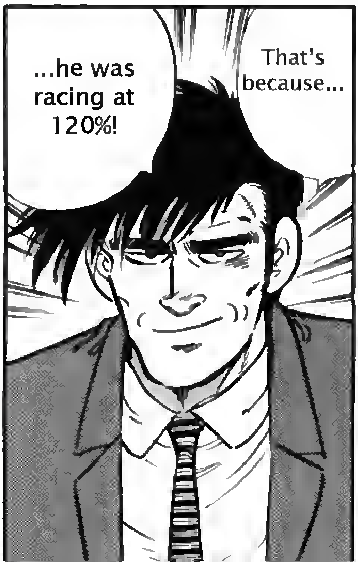
ZOOM
...
ZWOOM
Nobody...!
Dammit!
Nobody gets...!
M
S
100
S
0205
99
...
You were perfect...

Hey, Mr. Kuroi...
You almost gave Goro a heart attack.
You used 100% of the potential that Eijiro tuned the car for...
You should be proud.
Is it?
2:06 is the best time.
Definitely not, Eijiro is top class.
Is Eijiro actually a terrible mechanic?
...
That must mean the car is slow...
CLANK
But still, Hijiri passed me and took off!
I used 100% of that car's potential.
So I guess...

FIZZ
That's not it.
...
Right...!?

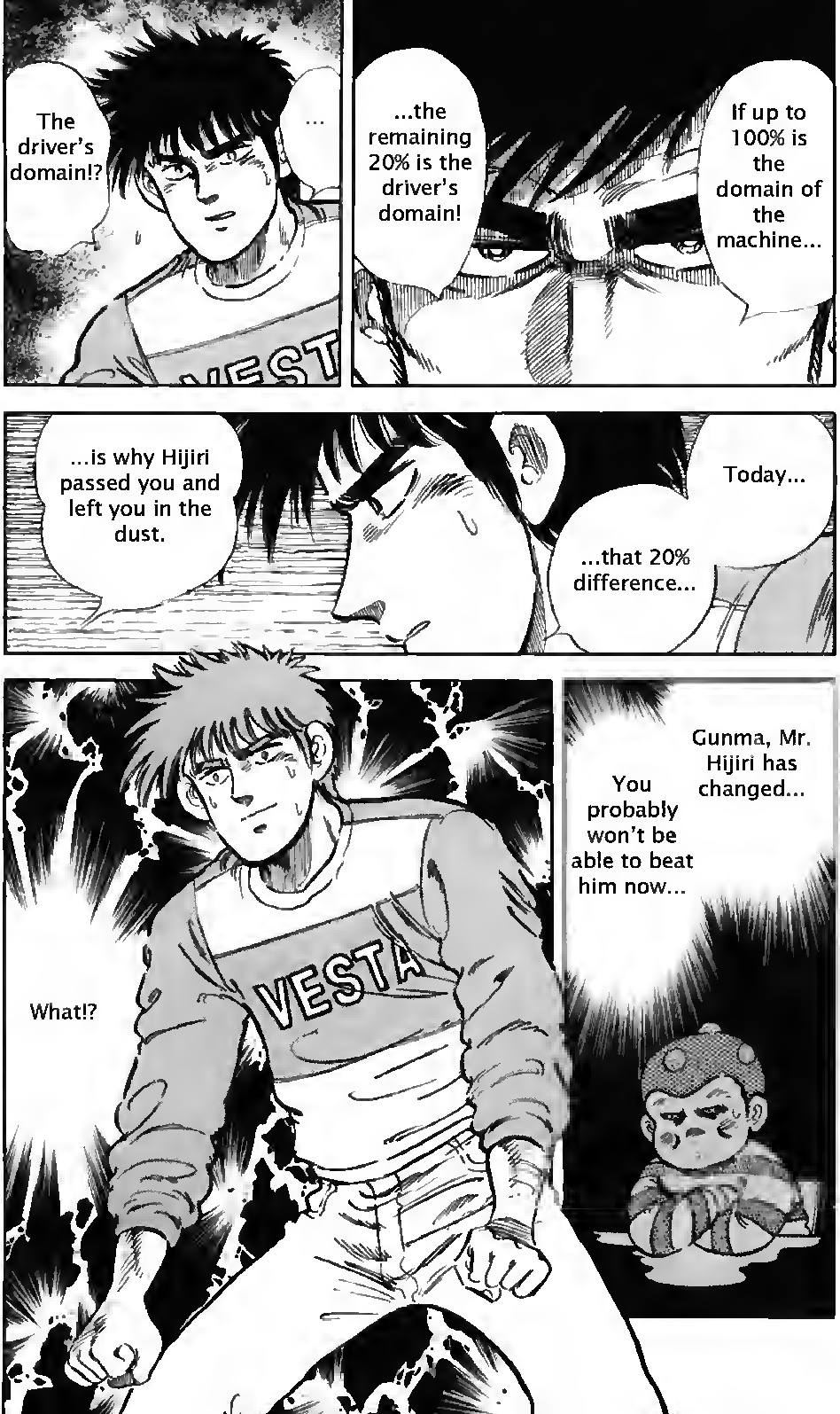
B-But...
Hijiri's car might have been slower than yours, but there is no way it was faster!

There are regulations on how much the cars can be tuned.
Every car is tuned right up to the limit. In the end, all the cars are more or less the same speed.
The car you drove today was in nearly perfect condition.

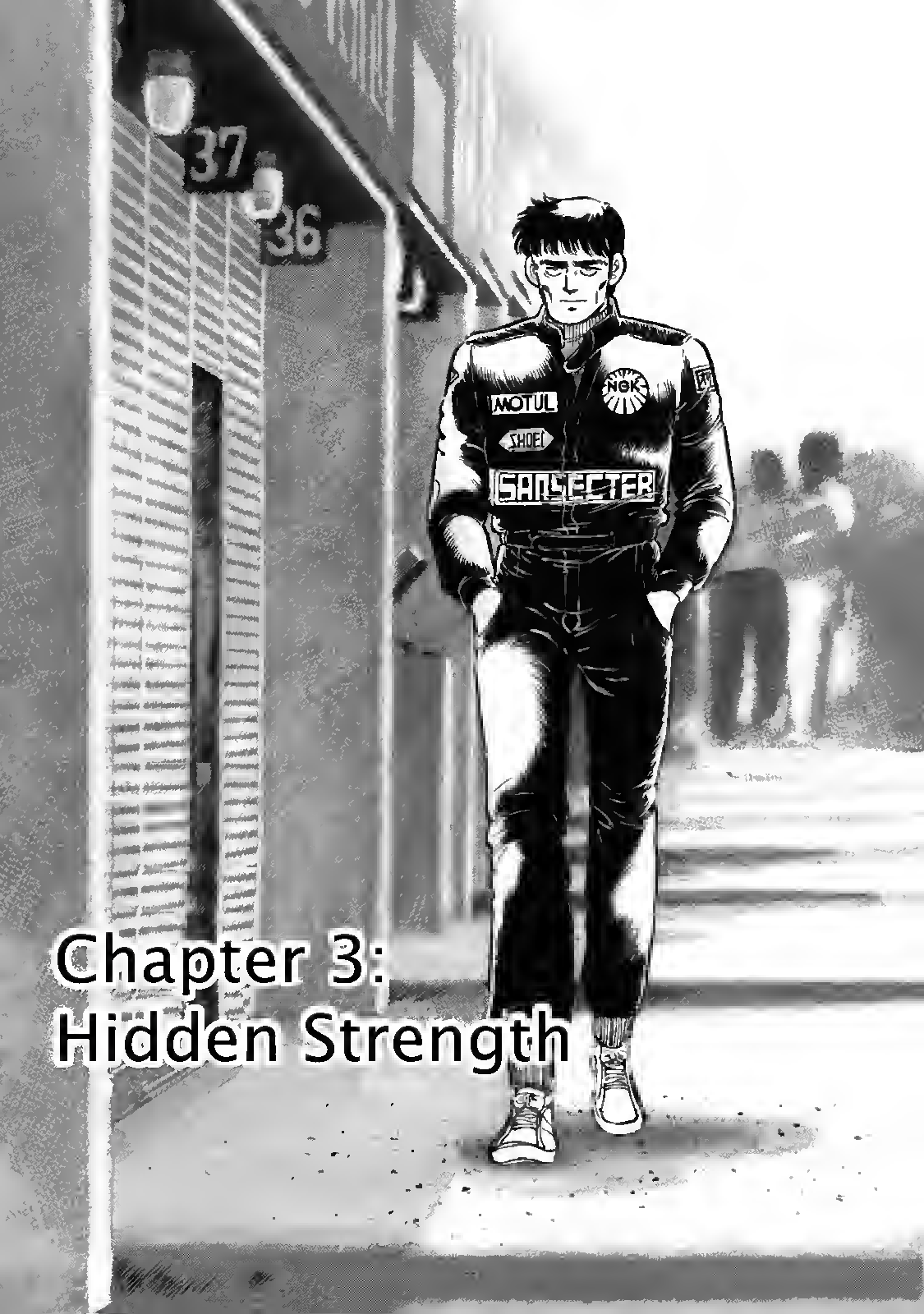

That's because...
...he was racing at 120%!

Even though I was racing at 100%!
His car was faster! I know it!
SLAM

That's right, 120%!
...120%!?
One...
After all, a mechanic who worked on a car should know all about its limits!
They know better than anyone how far the engine can be pushed.
Uh.. Uh..
In other words, if the mechanic can drive, it shouldn't be too hard for them to use 100% of the potential.
Listen up Gunma, anyone who understands a car completely should be able to use 100% of its potential.
Hey, that's mine...
...
GULP
...but between people.
Racing isn't a battle between machines...
If you ask me...

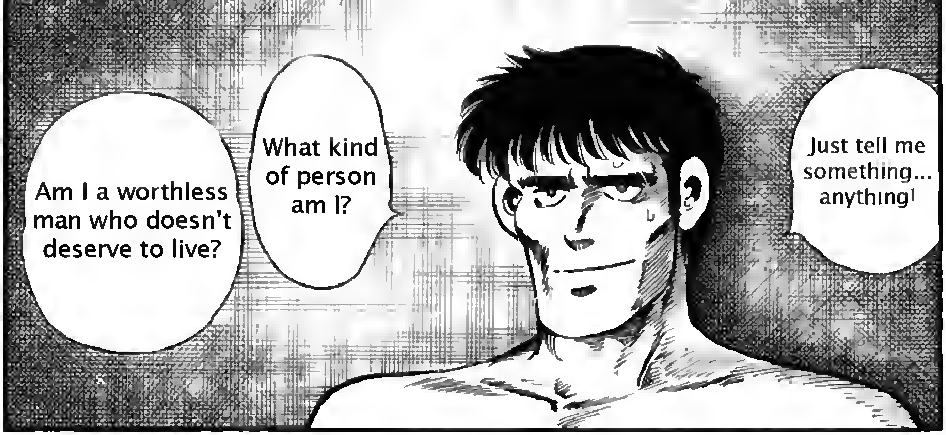

The driver's domain!?
...
...the remaining 20% is the driver's domain!
If up to 100% is the domain of the machine...
...is why Hijiri passed you and left you in the dust.
...that 20% difference...
Today...
What!?
VESTA
You probably won't be able to beat him now...
Gunma, Mr. Hijiri has changed...

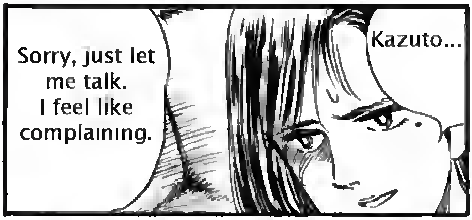
What's wrong...!?
Ka...
Kazuto...
WOO



Chapter 3: Hidden Strength

Your body...
It's shining...
Or maybe they've finally come to collect me...?
Stop it!
It must have been reflecting the lights outside
I was sweating
What am I anyway?
...Hey Ruiko...

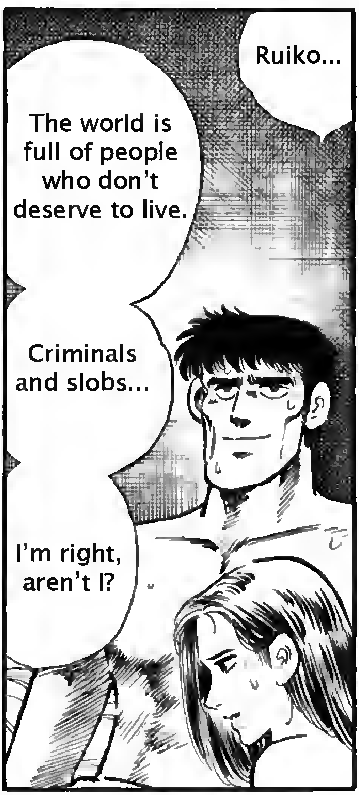

Am I a worthless man who doesn't deserve to live?
What kind of person am I?
Just tell me something... anything!


Sorry, just let me talk. I feel like complaining.
Kazuto...

Or... or maybe... just a few days.
I've only got... a few months left...

But I'm going to die!

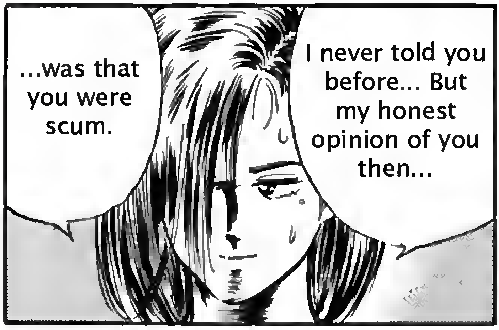
But those useless people...
...will end up living longer than me.
GULP

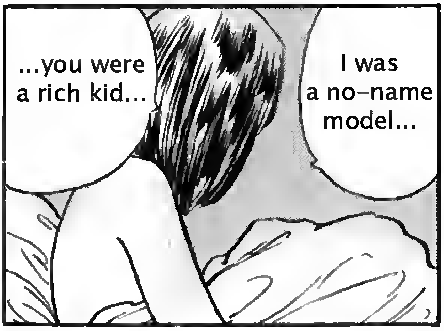

Ruiko...
The world is full of people who don't deserve to live.
Criminals and slobs...
I'm right, aren't I?

Tell me, Ruiko... Am I even more worthless than those people!?

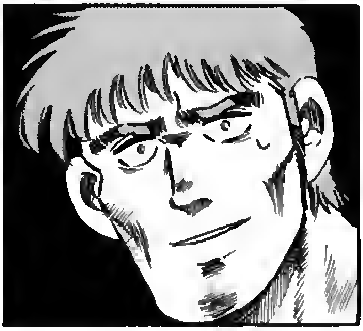
Look at this magazine, this is what it says about me!
"A 2nd Nakajima has appeared!" "This man's driving is superhuman!"
I was the reigning series champion in FJ. As soon as I joined F3, I was top class...
It's not like you!
Don't talk like that!
This man might have the skills to become the first Japanese world champion!
FLAP
And it even says this!
...
But...
Unfortunately, this man...
This man...
BAM
MOTUL

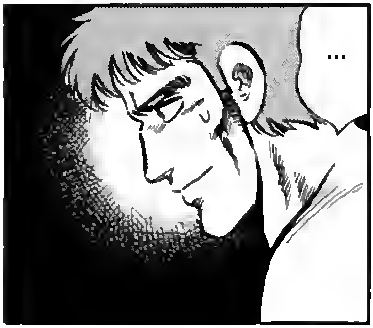
Do you remember?
When we first met 4 years ago...
...at a club in Roppongi.


I never told you before... But my honest opinion of you then...
...was that you were scum.


I was a no-name model...
...you were a rich kid...

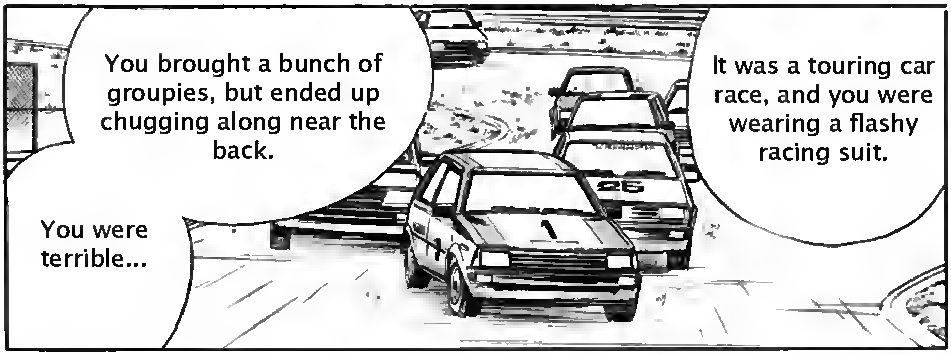
...Scum ...?

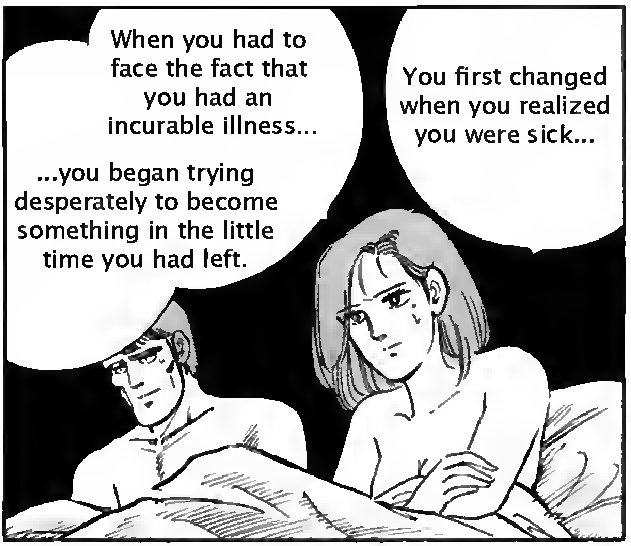



...

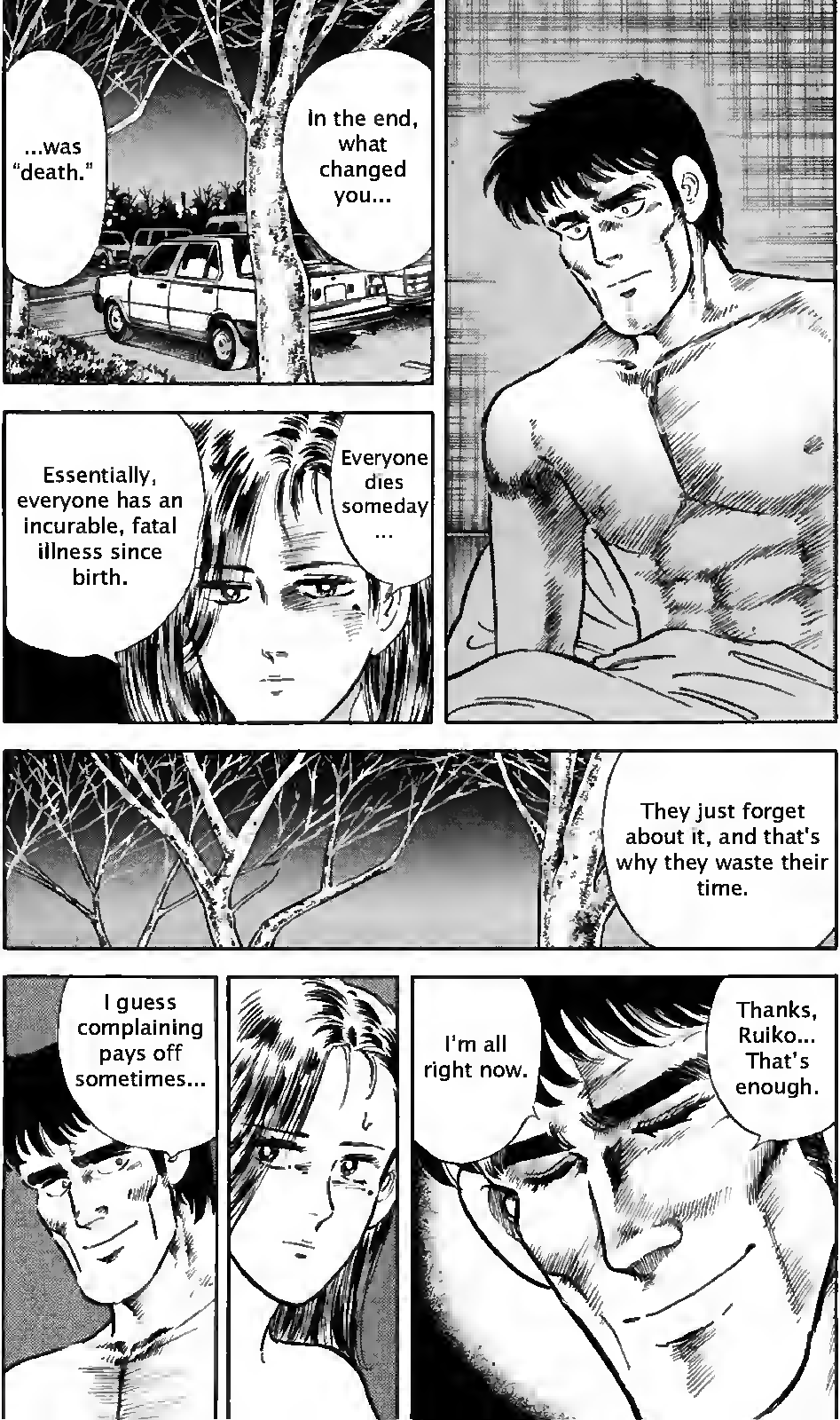
An arrogant, shallow, playboy...
A man with rich parents and no merits of his own...

I remember the first time I went to see you race...
You were racing then too...
But it was just a hobby to kill time, wasn't it?
You only did it to impress girls.


You brought a bunch of groupies, but ended up chugging along near the back.
You were terrible...
It was a touring car race, and you were wearing a flashy racing suit.
25
1

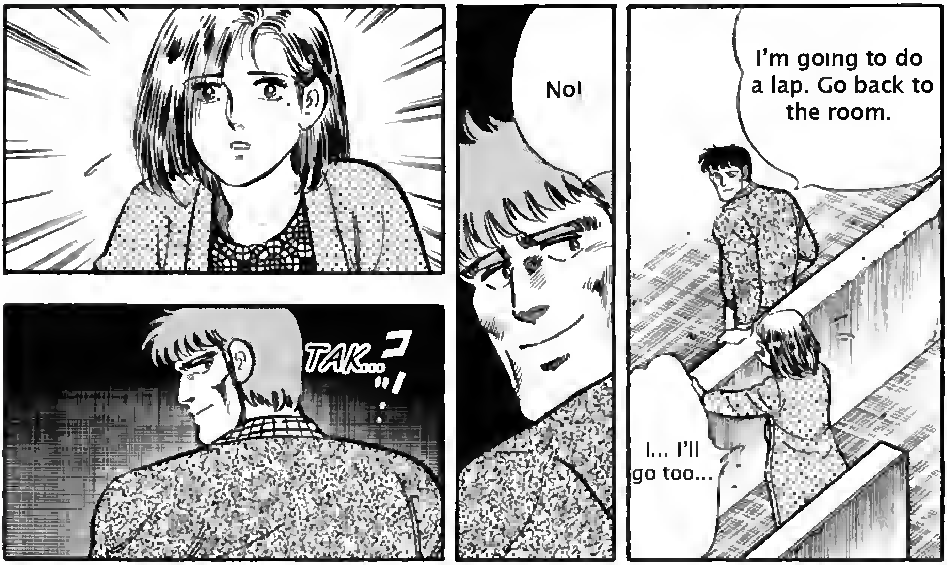

When you had to face the fact that you had an incurable illness...
...you began trying desperately to become something in the little time you had left.
You first changed when you realized you were sick...

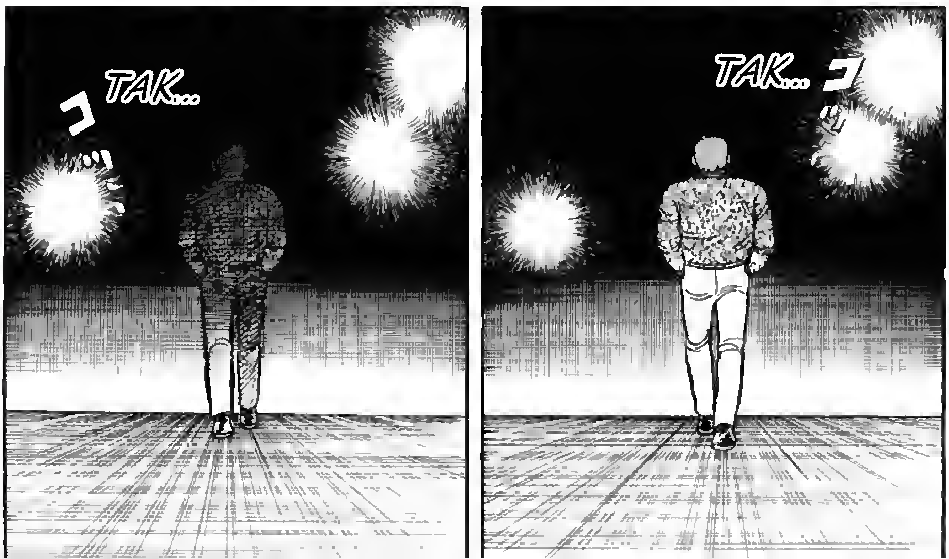
That's quite a harsh assessment...


...was "death."
In the end, what changed you...
Essentially, everyone has an incurable, fatal illness since birth.
Everyone dies someday ...
They just forget about it, and that's why they waste their time.
I guess complaining pays off sometimes...
I'm all right now.
Thanks, Ruiko... That's enough.

Where are you going?
In a way...
I might be a lucky man...
I feel like walking the circuit...
I'll go too...
SEIKO
SEIKO
SEIKO

Don't worry, I'll make it to summer... or hopefully until Macau in November...
Come on, you make it sound like the next race will be my last...
No, I want to be with you.
It's cold. You could have just stayed in bed...


TAK...
No!
I'm going to do a lap. Go back to the room.
I... I'll go too...

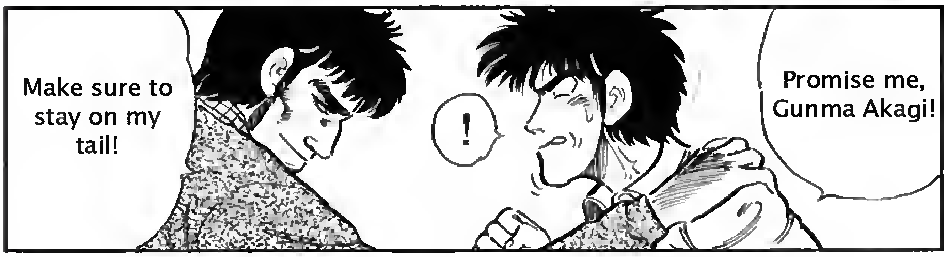

TAK...
TAK...

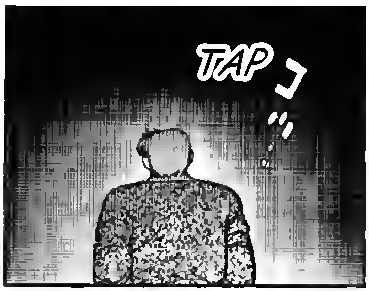
CABIN
TAK...
I won't let you go alone...
No...
When I stepped on the brakes here...
...Hijiri was around here somewhere.
Hmm...
What the hell? Where did he brake?

?
Maybe it was here...
Not here either...
Not here...
Man, don't sneak up like that! You surprised me!
Huff! Huff!
...
Ahhh! Ghost!
Crawling on the ground? Is that how you walk...?
N-Nothin'... I-I was just takin' a walk!
What are you doing here?
... Akagi ...

...H-Hey, Hijiri...
TWITCH
Were you looking for tire marks to find my breaking point?
...then I'll race at 150%!
Listen up, man. If you race at 120%...
Most people aren't that excited standing on a circuit at night.
You've got a lot of energy...
I actually envy you...
Wh-What was that!?
E-Even if my car falls to pieces, nobody gets in front of me!

You'll be the one staring at MY ass!
Wh-What are you talking about!?
...make sure to stay on my tail...
Hey Akagi, if you pass the preliminary and make it to the final...


Make sure to stay on my tail!
!
Promise me, Gunma Akagi!


TAP

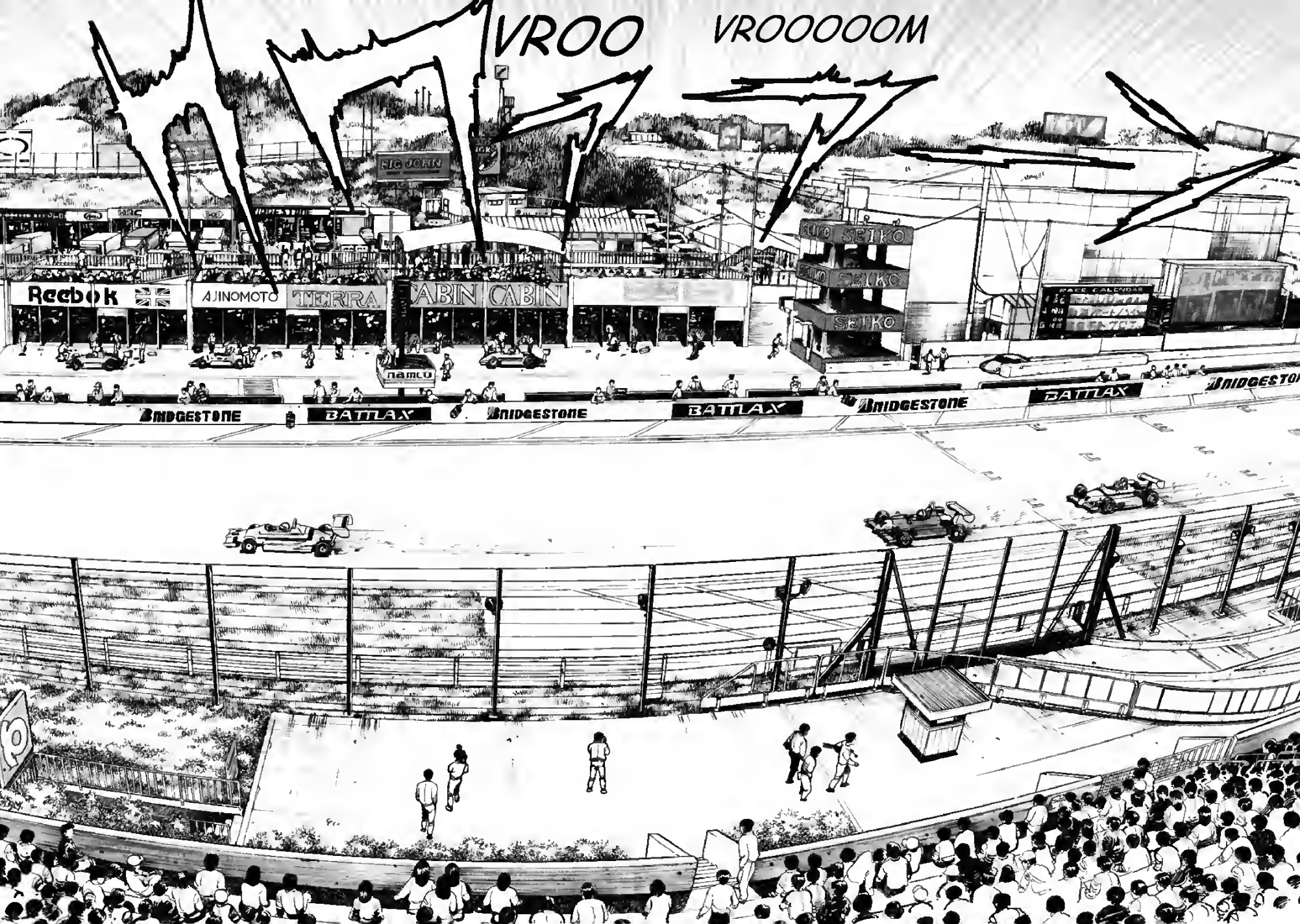
...?

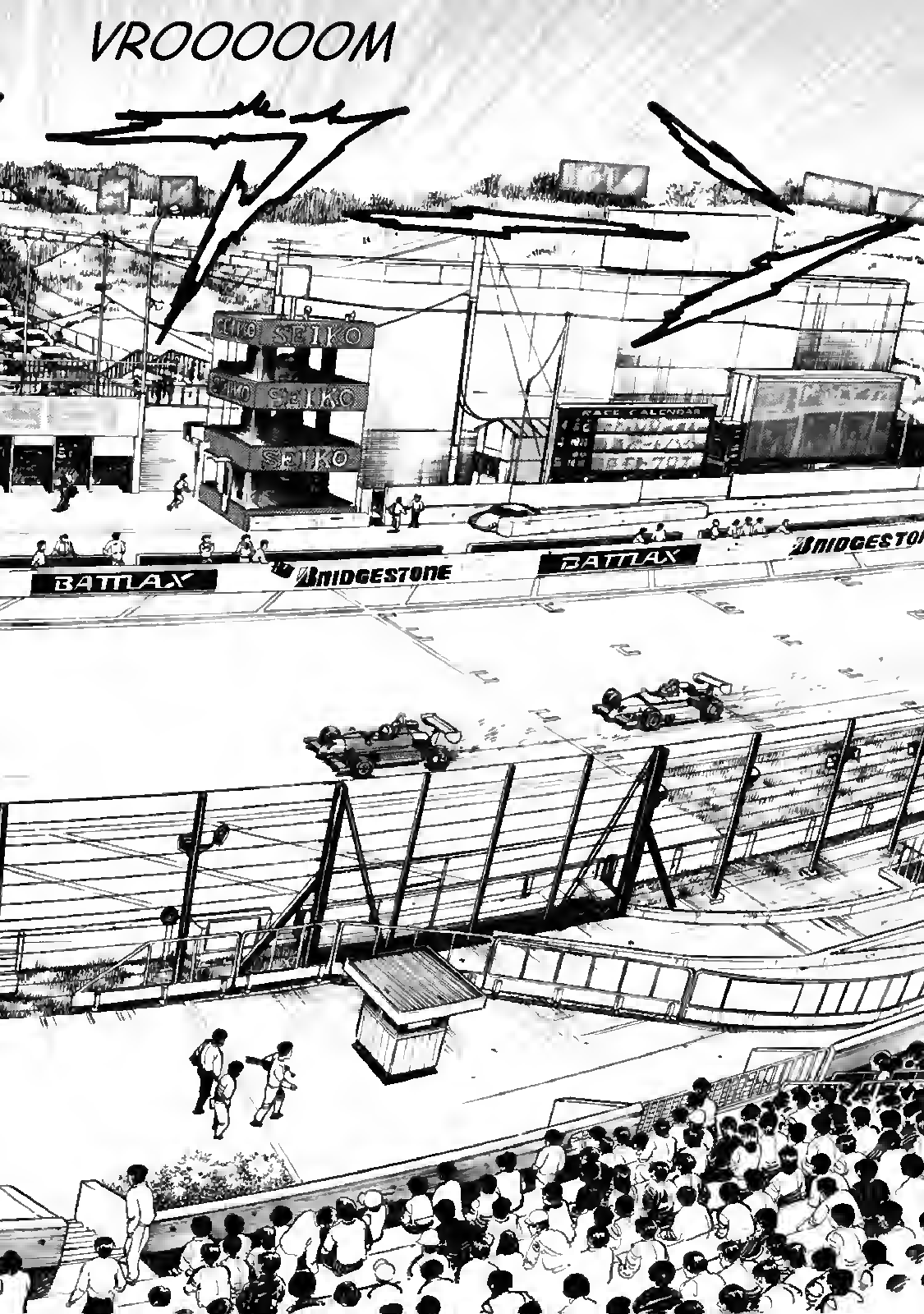
...I'll show you something interesting!
If you do that...

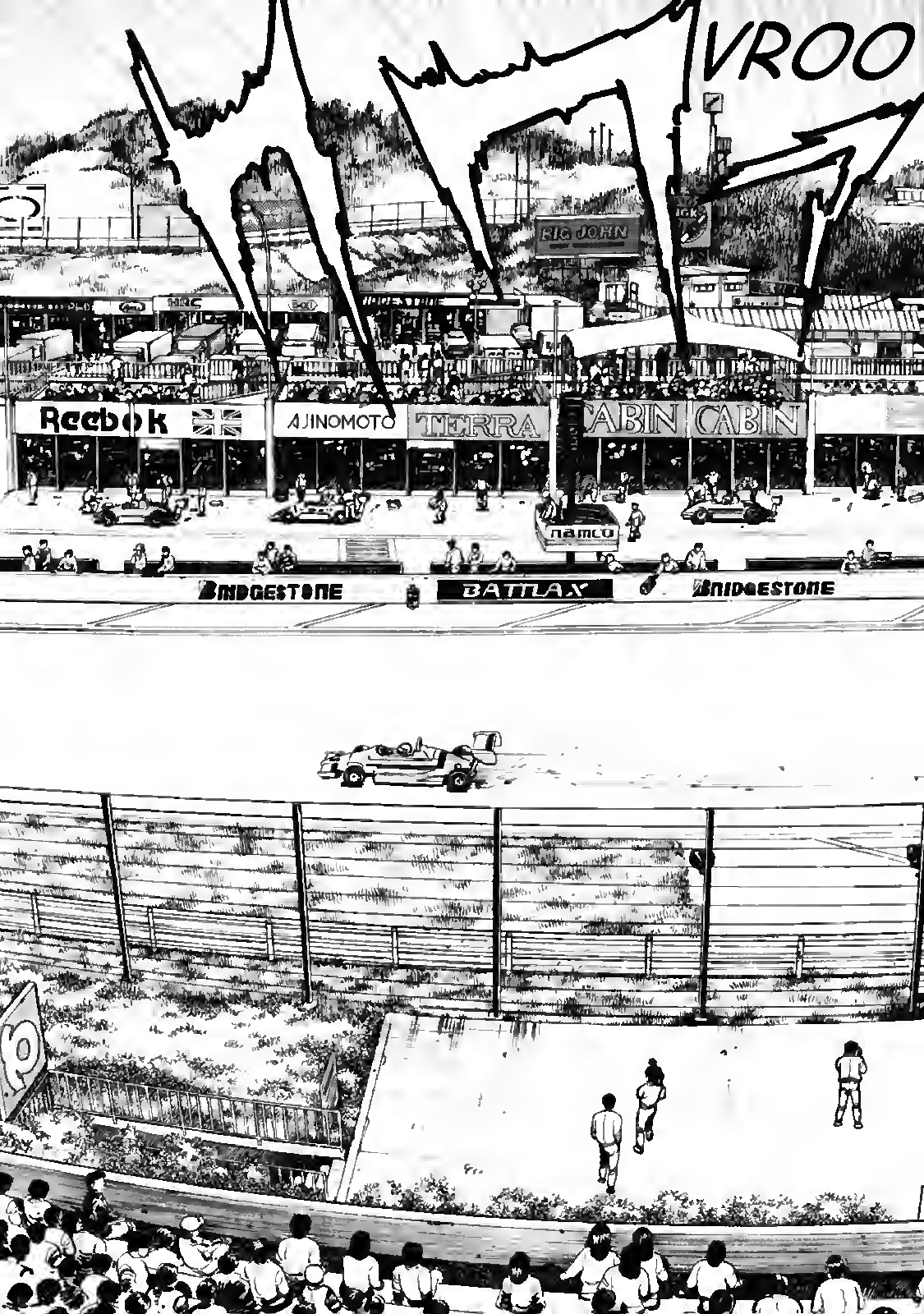
BIG JOHN
NGK
Reebok
AJINOMOTO
TERRA
CABIN CABIN
SEIKO
SEIKO
SEIKO
namco
BRIDGESTONE
BATTLAX
BRIDGESTONE
BATTLAX
BRIDGESTONE
BATTLAX

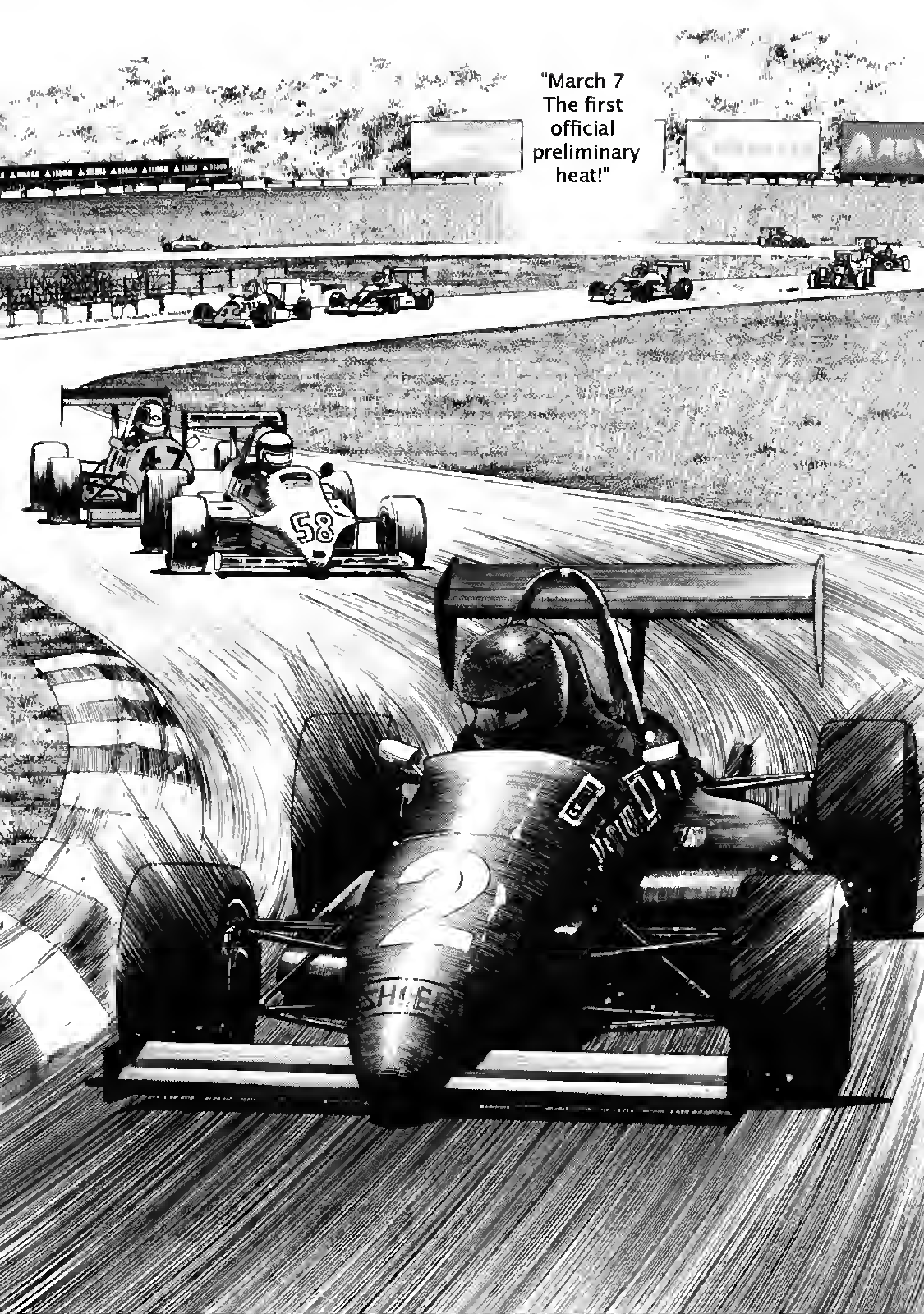
SEIKO
SEIKO
SEIKO
SEIKO
SEIKO
SEIKO
RACE CALENDAR
BATTLAX
BRIDGESTONE
BATTLAX
BRIDGESTONE

BIG JOHN
NGK
Reebok
AJINOMOTO
TERRA
CABIN
CABIN
namco
BRIDGESTONE
BATTLAX
BRIDGESTONE

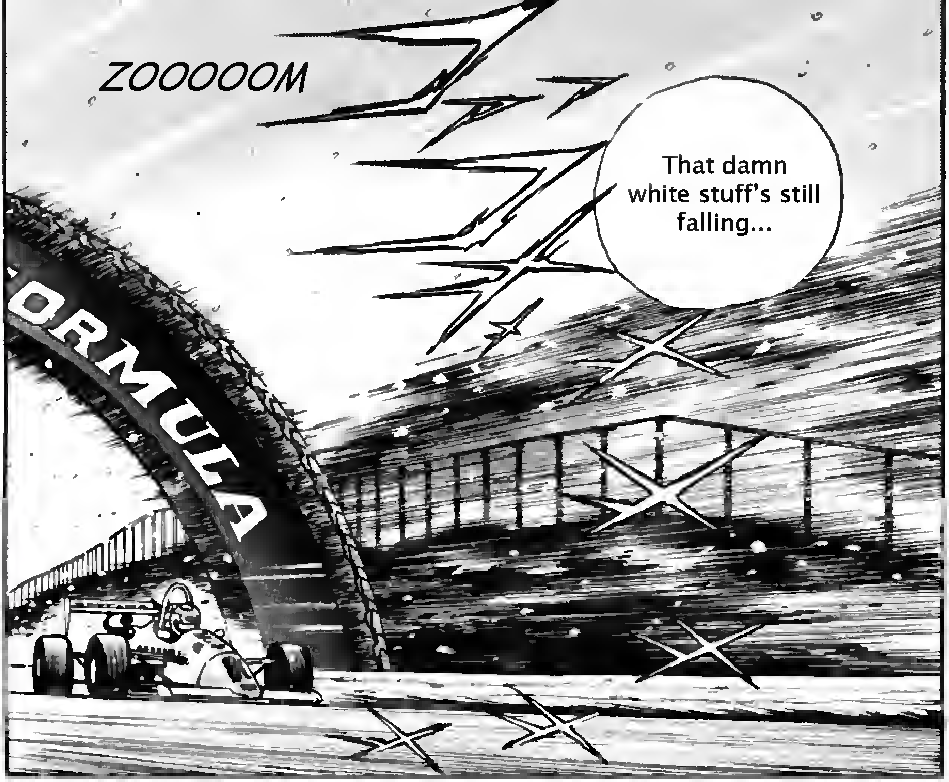

VROO
VROOOOOM
Reebok
AJINOMOTO
TERRA
CABIN
CABIN
namco
SEIKO
SEIKO
SEIKO
BRIDGESTONE
BATTLAX
BRIDGESTONE
BATTLAX
BRIDGESTONE
BATTLAX

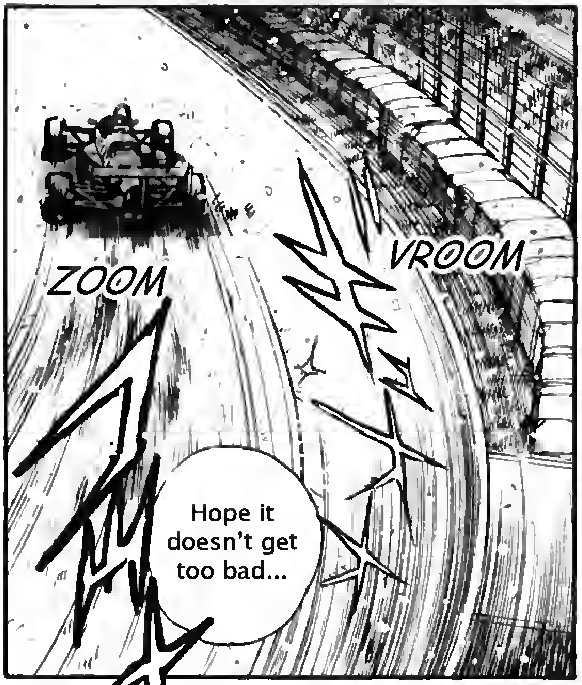

VROOOOOM
SEIKO
SEIKO
SEIKO
RACE CALENDAR
BATTLAX
BRIDGESTONE
BATTLAX
BRIDGESTONE

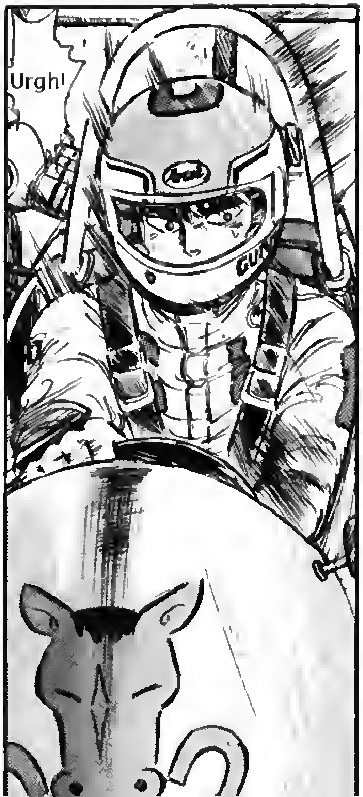

VROOO
BIG JOHN
Reebok
AJINOMOTO
TERRA
CABIN
CABIN
namco
BRIDGESTONE
BATTLAX
BRIDGESTONE


"March 7
The first
official
preliminary
heat!"
58

Chapter 4: Preliminary Begins

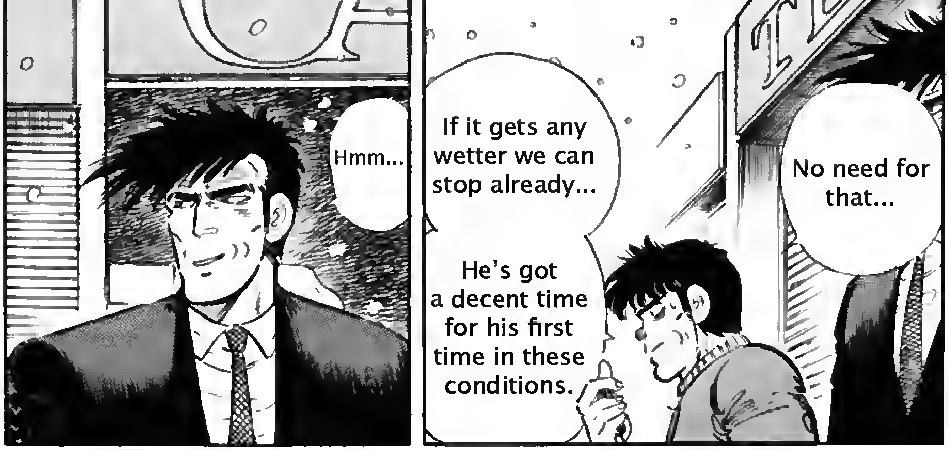

ZOOOOOM
That damn white stuff's still falling...
ORMULA

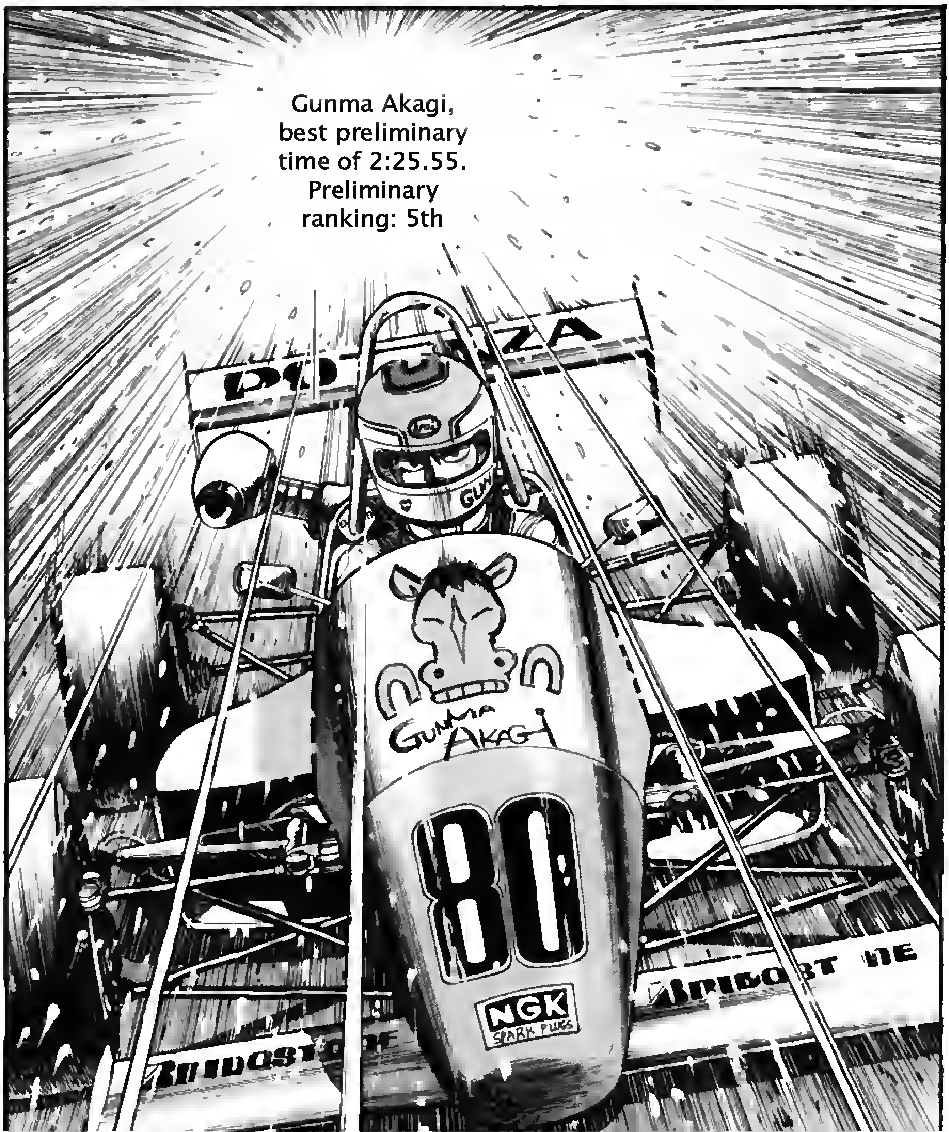

ZOOM
VROOM
Hope it doesn't get too bad...


Urgh!

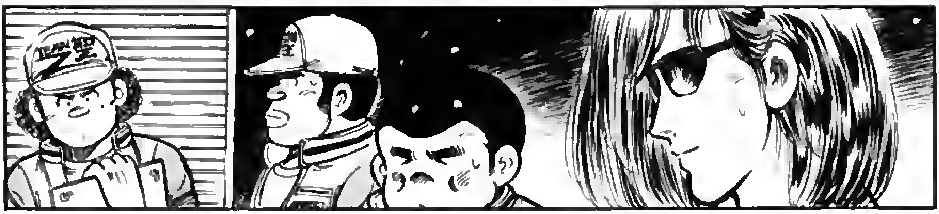
I can't stick it out on the reverse bank!
My tail feels like it's slippin'!
Stop whining! You've got a decent time, keep going!
FLIP
PSHOO
VROOOM
Fine, I got it!
BRAAM
The west course looks like it's getting pretty wet.
VRRRRRR
BRIDGESTONE
Should we switch the tires to inters (*)?
ZWOOOM

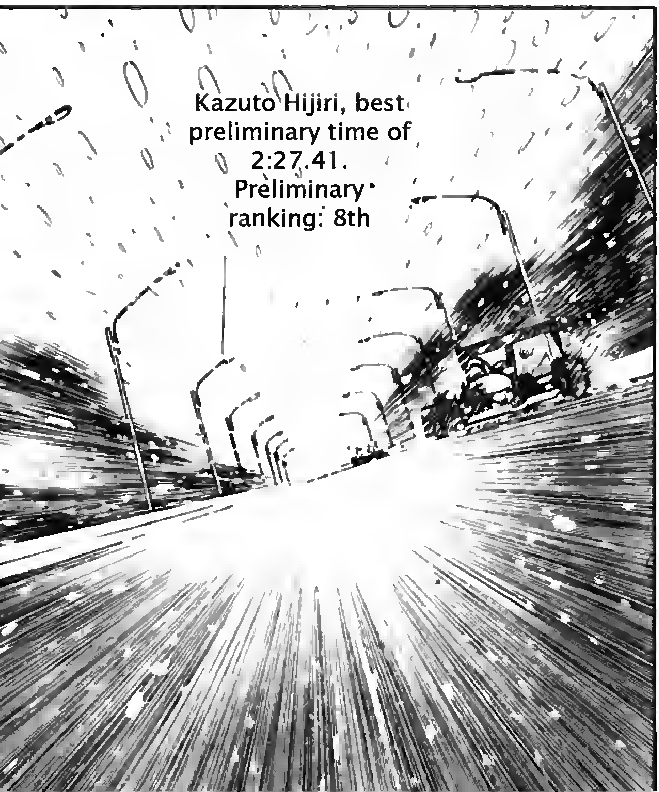
* Inter= Intermediate tires. In between slick tires for dry conditions and rain tires for wet. Used when the track is slightly wet.


Hmm...
If it gets any wetter we can stop already...
He's got a decent time for his first time in these conditions.
No need for that...


Gunma Akagi, best preliminary time of 2:25.55. Preliminary ranking: 5th
GUNMA AKAGI
80
NGK
SPARK PLUGS

WHIIISH
TEAM ID
36

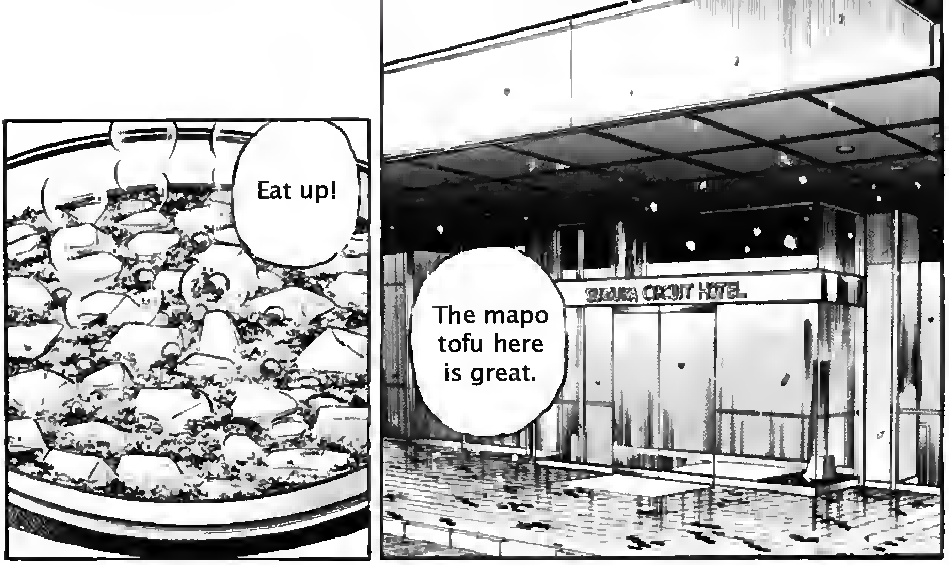


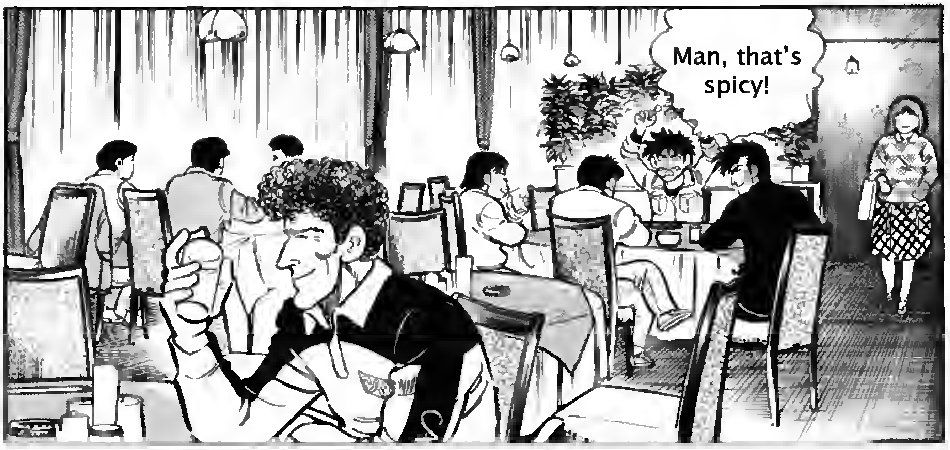

Kazuto Hijiri, best preliminary time of 2:27.41. Preliminary ranking: 8th

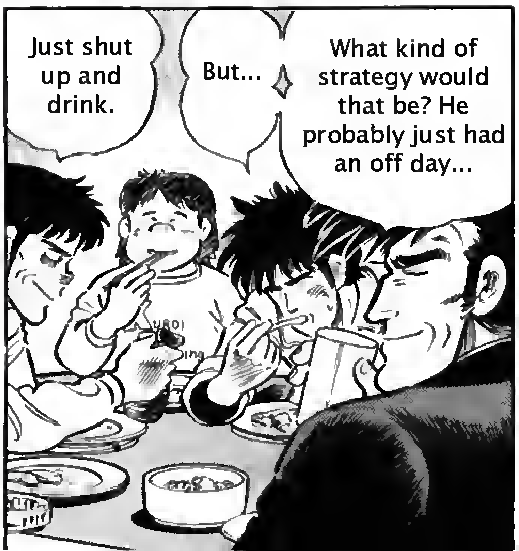
HIJIRI KA

Driver	Ranking	Time
Koji Udo	(1)	2'23"59S
B. Scotte	(2)	2'24"763
Akihiko Kamiya	(3)	2'24"846
Hitoshi Ogawa	(4)	2'25"396
Gunma Akagi	(5)	2'25"556
Osamu Shimojima	(6)	2'25"784
Shuichi Hyodo	(7)	2'27"14S
Kazuto Hijiri	(8)	2'27"411
M. Sandler	(9)	2'27"541
R. Chipper	(10)	2'28"041
Hiroshi Abe	(11)	2'29"424
Keizo Kirihara	(12)	2'29"833
Yu Ogawa	(13)	2'30"621
Katsuhiro Nishidan	(14)	2'31"152
Masayuki Honmo	(15)	2'31"847
Wataru Fukunaga	(16)	2'32"020
Geki Shimizu	(17)	2'32"210
Masahiko Yoshida	(18)	2'32"756
Tsutomu Nakamura	(19)	2'33"452
Eiji Hagiwara	(20)	2'34"544
Tadashi Kobayashi	(21)	2'36"212
Katsuki Kitakawa	(22)	2'39"172
Keiji Sasaki	(23)	2'48"743
Kyoichi Tobi	(24)	2'49"569

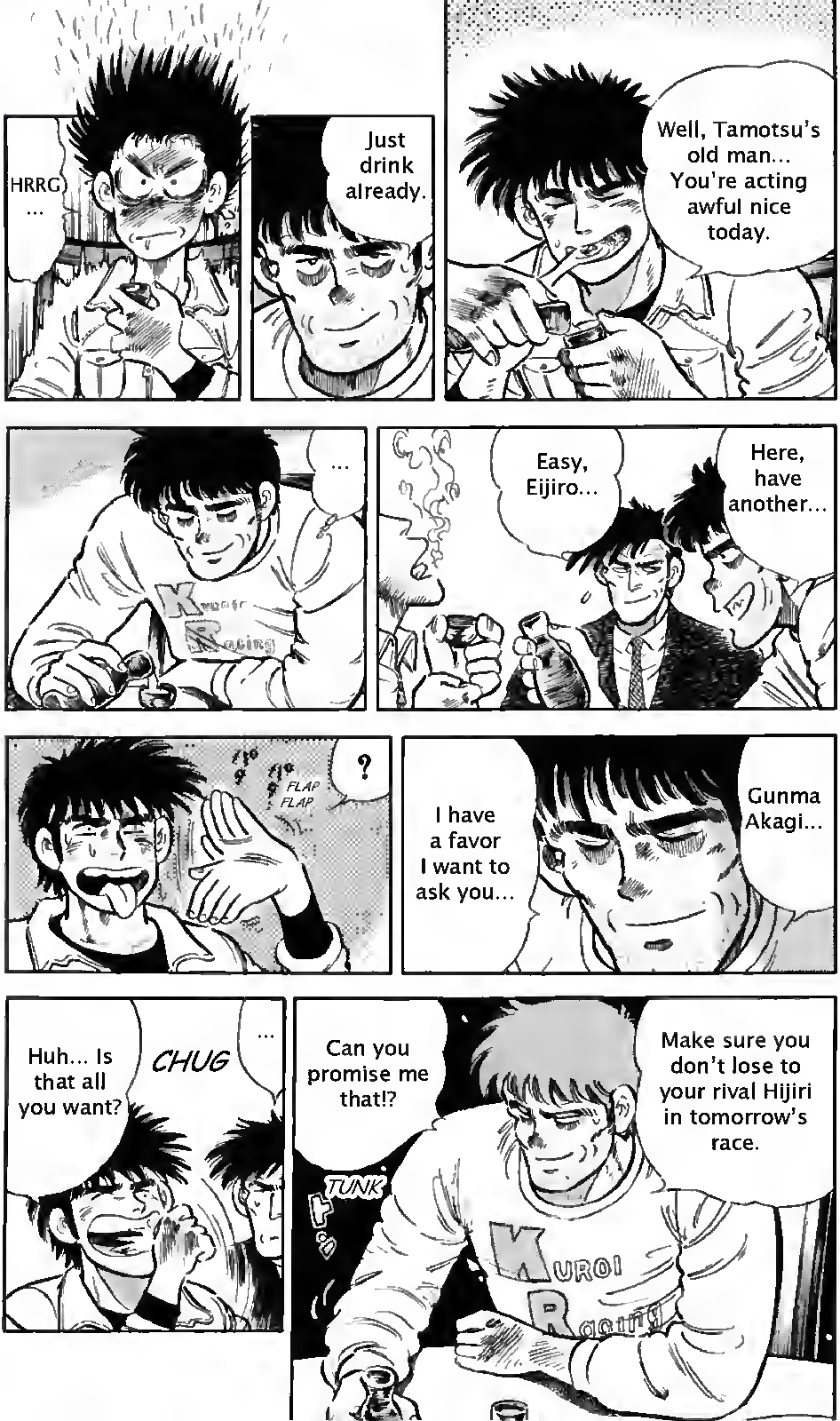
Suzuka was covered with unseasonal snow this day...

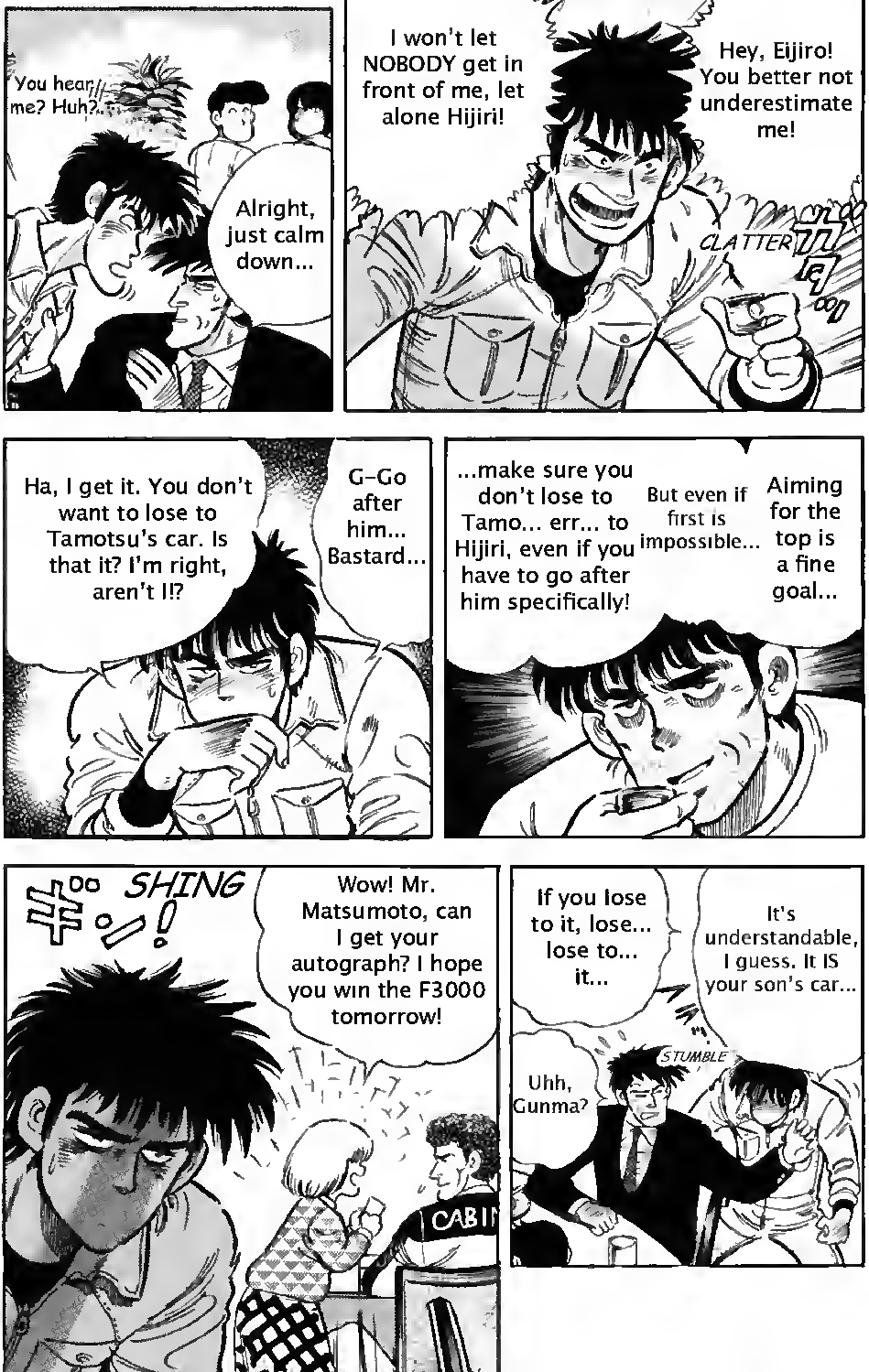

Eat up!
The mapo tofu here is great.


Man, that's spicy!


Just shut up and drink.
But...
What kind of strategy would that be? He probably just had an off day...

It's not some kind of strategy, is it!?
HUFF HUFF
But man, I can't believe it... Hijiri comin' in 8th!
HUFF


HRRG...
Just drink already.
Well, Tamotsu's old man... You're acting awful nice today.
...
Easy, Eijiro...
Here, have another...
?
FLAP FLAP
I have a favor I want to ask you...
Gunma Akagi...
Huh... Is that all you want?
CHUG
...
Can you promise me that!?
TUNK
Make sure you don't lose to your rival Hijiri in tomorrow's race.


You hear me? Huh?..
Alright, just calm down...
I won't let NOBODY get in front of me, let alone Hijiri!
Hey, Eijiro! You better not underestimate me!
CLATTER
Ha, I get it. You don't want to lose to Tamotsu's car. Is that it? I'm right, aren't I!?
G-Go after him... Bastard...
...make sure you don't lose to Tamo... err... to Hijiri, even if you have to go after him specifically!
But even if first is impossible...
Aiming for the top is a fine goal...
SHING
Wow! Mr. Matsumoto, can I get your autograph? I hope you win the F3000 tomorrow!
If you lose to it, lose... lose to... it...
It's understandable, I guess. It IS your son's car...
STUMBLE
Uhh, Gunma?

Or kiss marks on your back spelling G-U-N--M-A!
STUMBLE
Where do you want it, on your panties?
PTOO
Huh?
I'll give ya an autograph!
Hey, you there!
EH HEH
Damn it, Gunma! Stop it!
SCRAMBLE
Sir, calm down!
Uh... There are some people here to meet with Mr. Gunma Akagi...
Ahhh! Someone, help me!
WHOOSH
Damn... He's drunk already!
Mwa-ha-haha!
Geez...
That... idiot...
15

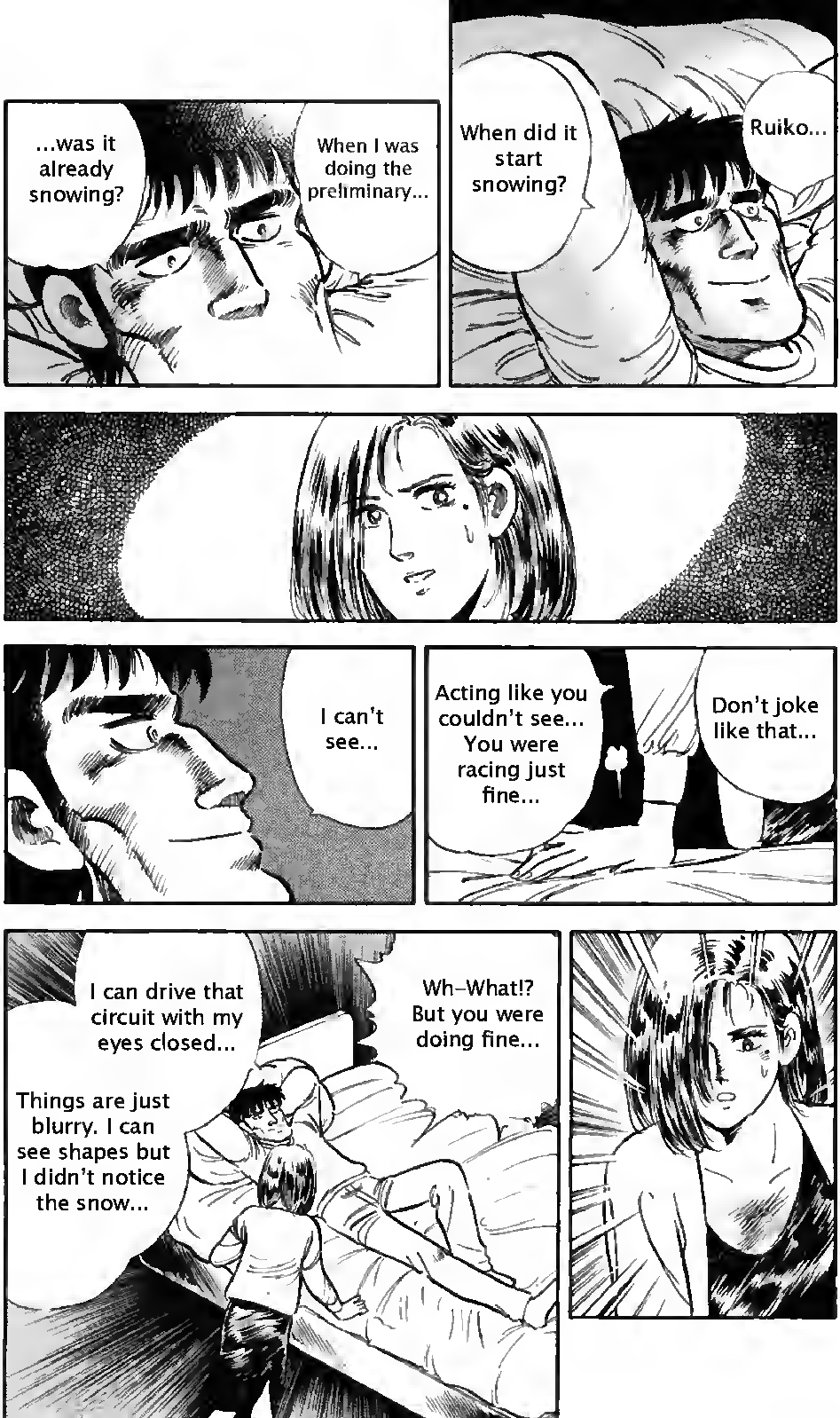
Thanks...
Mr. Tamotsu Oishi? One moment please.
Excuse me... Is there a guest named Tamotsu Oishi stayin' here...?
FRONT DESK
YAK YAK
AKA
Hey!
Momma ...
WIIN
Naw, I already ate.
I could at least buy dinner.
Pretty fancy place here...
FFEE
CO

I heard it from Daddy.
SIP
...that there's a race tomorrow...
I'm surprised you knew...
SIP
He showed up a while back...
Heard you and Daddy are gonna face off tomorrow...
Huh!?
He'll come back to Akagi Village and do farm work again...
In the race tomorrow, if you win and he loses...
Yeah... He made me a promise.
I-Is that true?
That was tasty

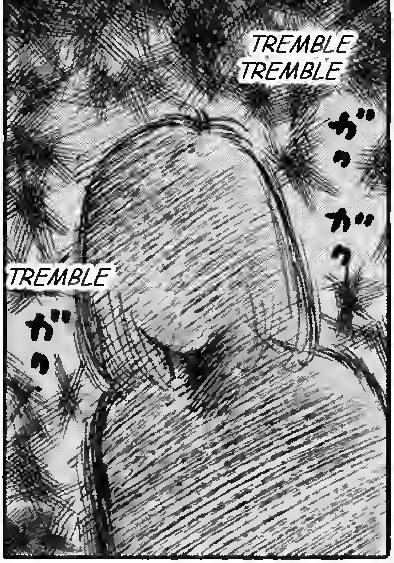
I-I don't plan on winning or nothin'... I... I just...
M-Momma, why did you make that promise...?
Win tomorrow, no matter what...
Tamotsu...
Come on, Momma...
Y-You can't just say that out of nowhere...
This is how you can repay me...
I had to put up with my mother-in-law and do farm work while having labor pains to give birth to you...
Do this one thing for me!
BOW
ペコ
Tamotsu, please...

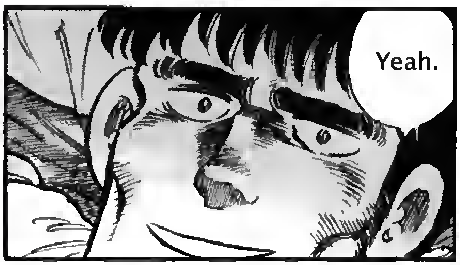
Momma...
M...

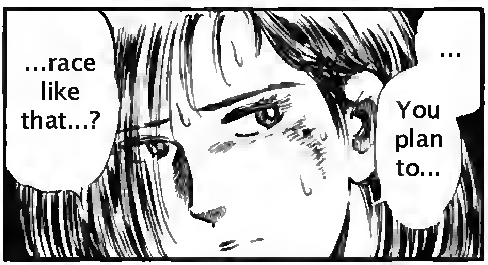
I hope the weather is okay tomorrow...
Everyone is doing a final check on the car.
CLICK


...was it already snowing?
When I was doing the preliminary...
When did it start snowing?
Ruiko...
I can't see...
Acting like you couldn't see... You were racing just fine...
Don't joke like that...
I can drive that circuit with my eyes closed...
Things are just blurry. I can see shapes but I didn't notice the snow...
Wh-What!? But you were doing fine...

Please don't tell anyone about it.
Don't worry about it.
It might get better by tomorrow.

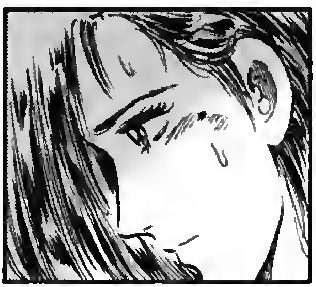

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE


Yeah.


...race like that...?
...
You plan to...

...I'm... already prepared for what happens...

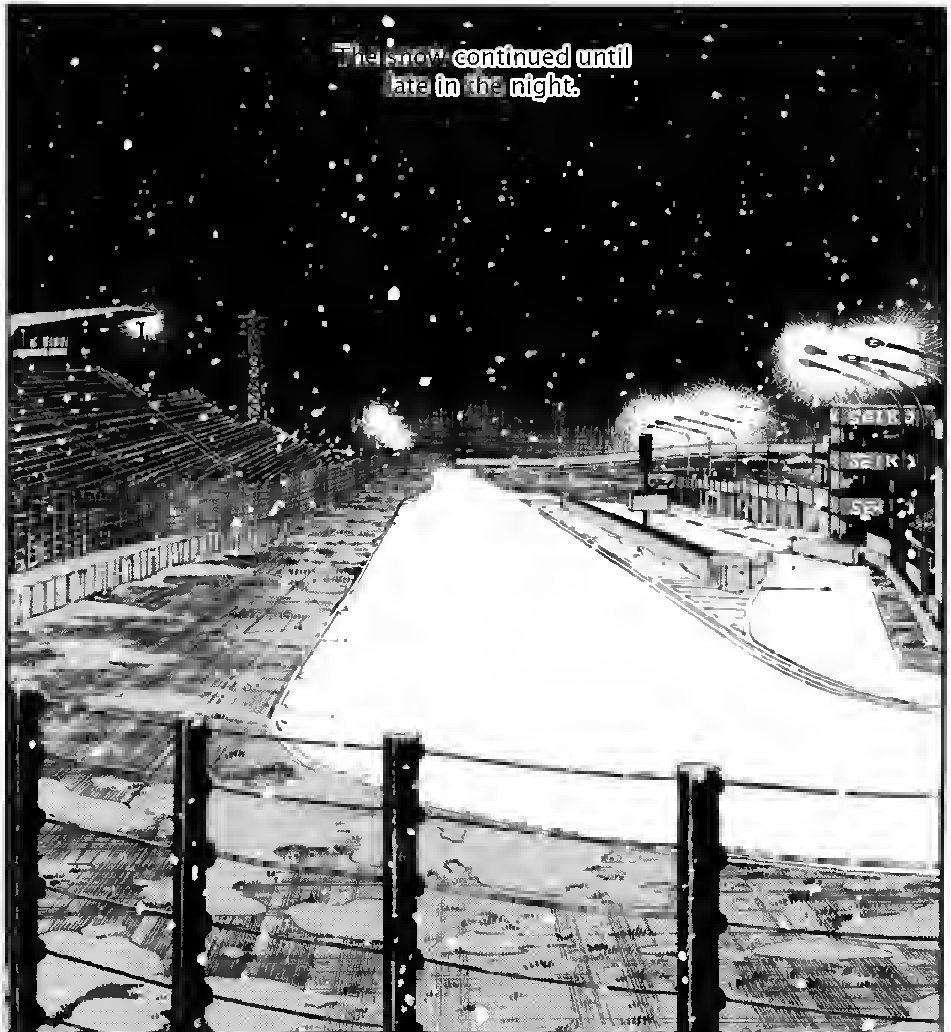
That's surprising...
I thought you'd try to stop me.



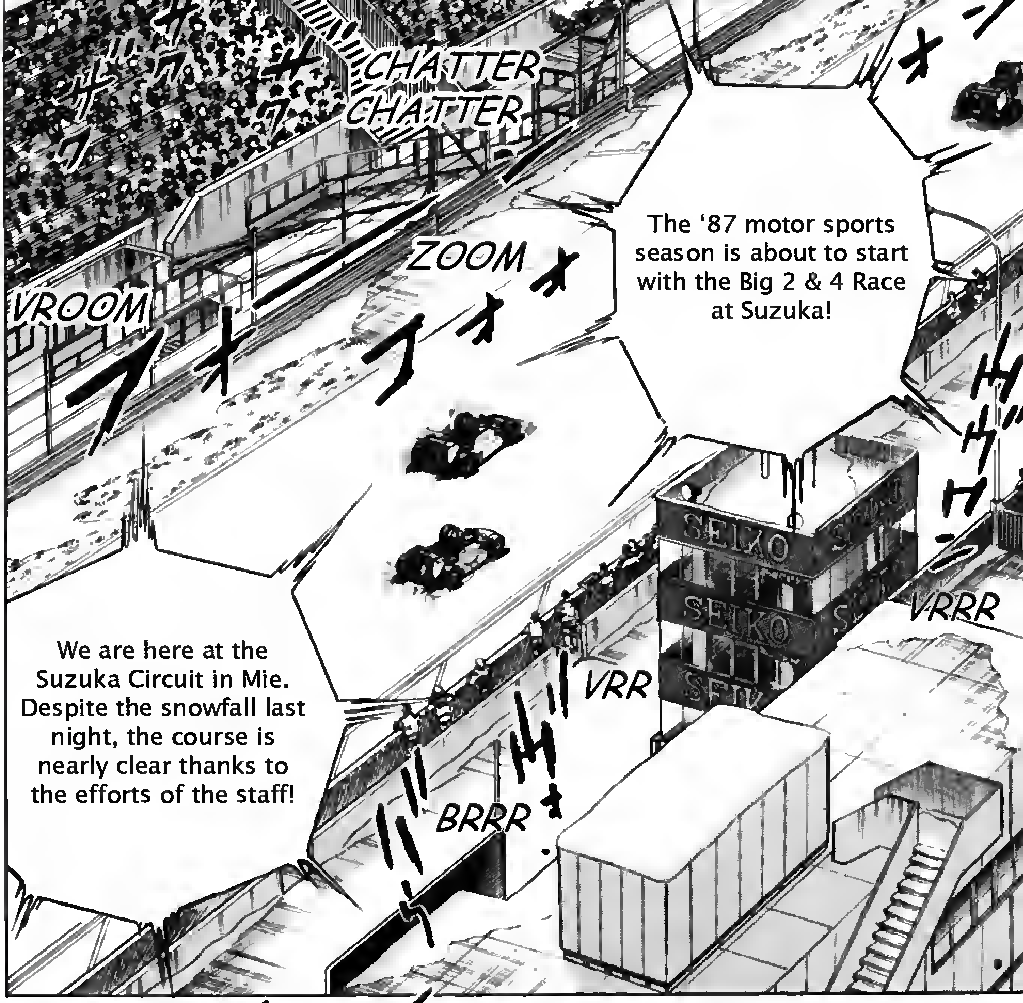
...I see...

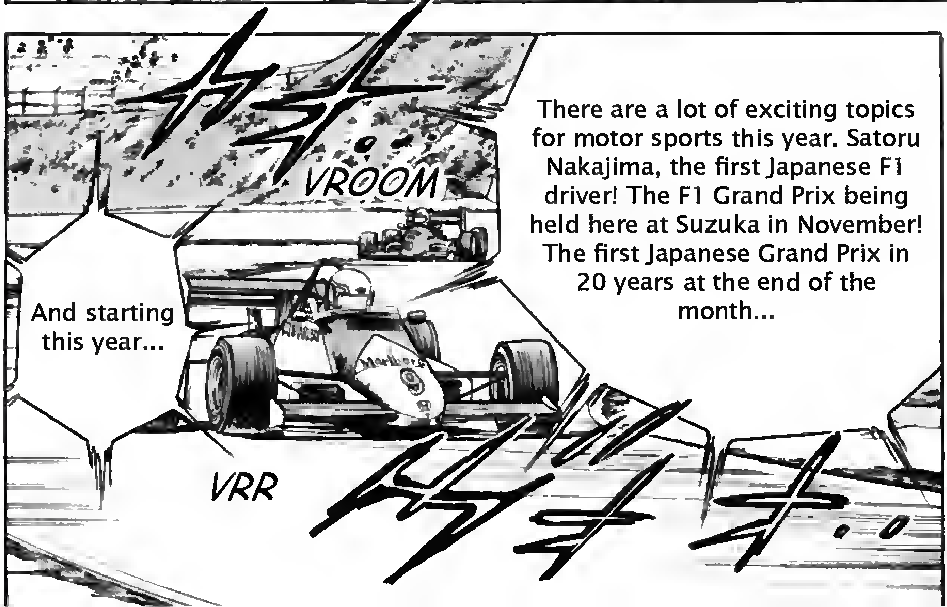
HUG
...Already prepared... are you...?
That's cold... Heh heh heh...
We came all this way to see him...
Sounds good to me.
ハーロー
SLAM
Let's just go bowling or something...
SNORE
He hasn't changed a bit.
And all he does is make a fool of himself and pass out...

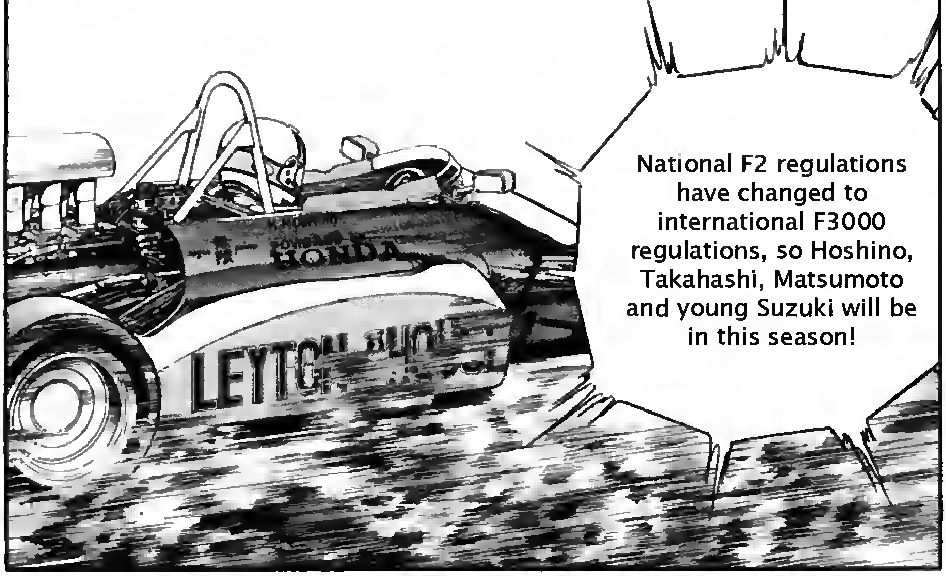
Then I'll show you something interesting!
Make sure to stay on my tail!

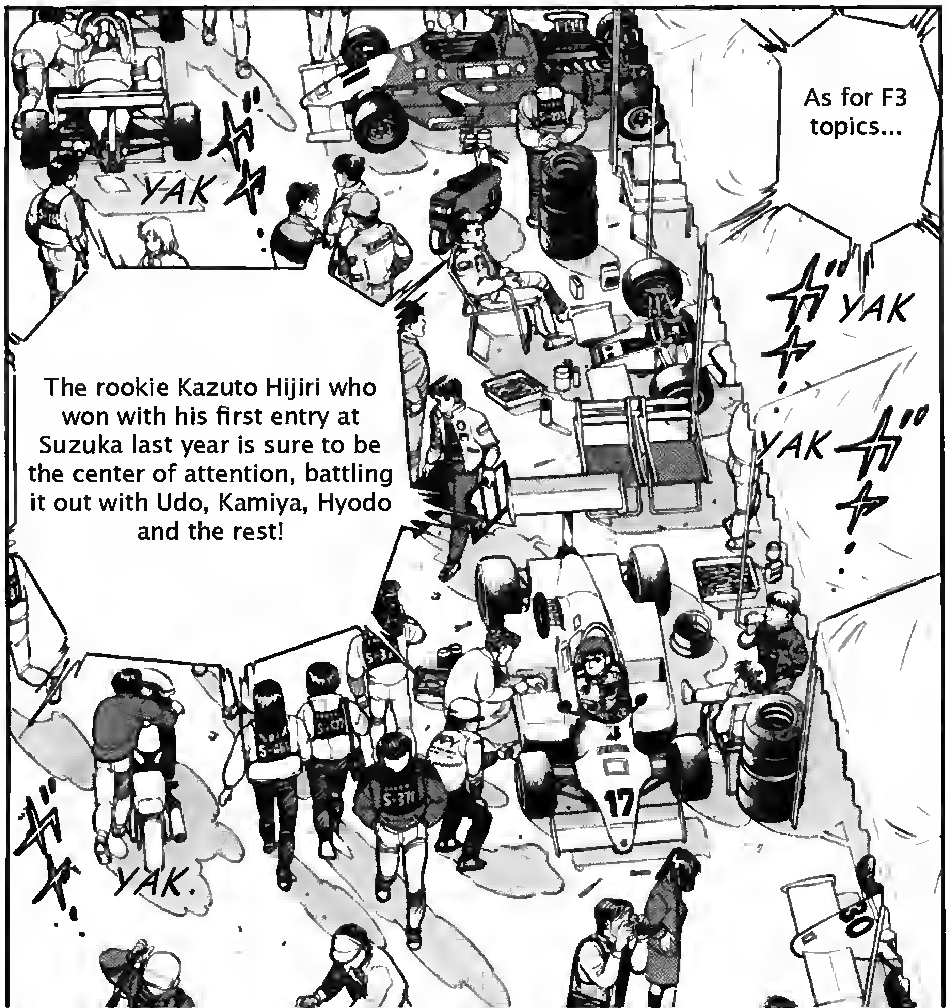

The snow continued until late in the night.

Chapter 5: Final (1)


CHATTER
CHATTER
ZOOM
VROOM
The '87 motor sports season is about to start with the Big 2 & 4 Race at Suzuka!
SEIKO
SEIKO
VRRR
We are here at the Suzuka Circuit in Mie. Despite the snowfall last night, the course is nearly clear thanks to the efforts of the staff!
VRR
BRRR

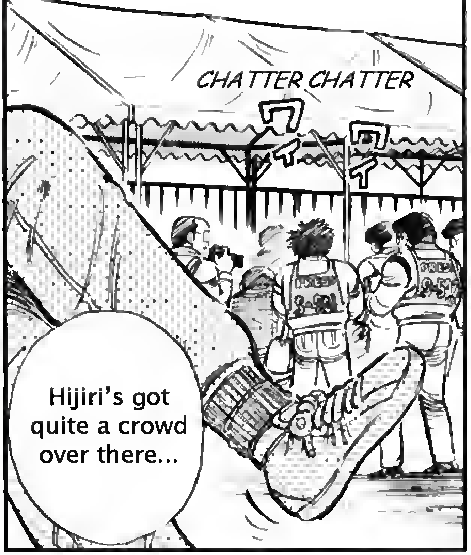

VROOM
There are a lot of exciting topics for motor sports this year. Satoru Nakajima, the first Japanese F1 driver! The F1 Grand Prix being held here at Suzuka in November! The first Japanese Grand Prix in 20 years at the end of the month...
And starting this year...
VRR


HONDA
National F2 regulations have changed to international F3000 regulations, so Hoshino, Takahashi, Matsumoto and young Suzuki will be in this season!

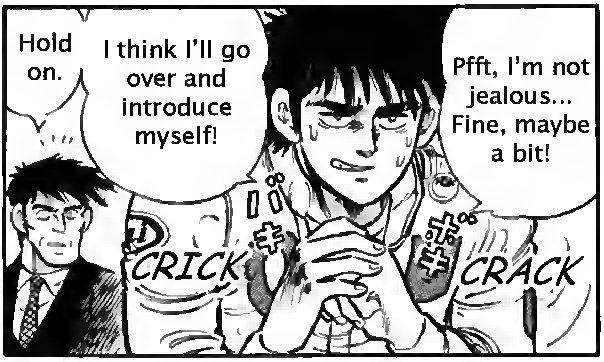

YAK
As for F3 topics...
YAK
YAK
The rookie Kazuto Hijiri who won with his first entry at Suzuka last year is sure to be the center of attention, battling it out with Udo, Kamiya, Hyodo and the rest!
YAK
17

FLASH
FLASH
FLASH
PRESS
S-532
E-Excuse me, isn't that enough? He's got to concentrate for the race...
FLASH
Hey, can you look at the camera!?
You look tense. Is it because of your preliminary time?
Hey, can you pose with that drink?
FLASH
Okay, just one more!
Isn't that enough, already...?
SWISH
!

Even though my preliminary time was better!
Don't be so jealous.

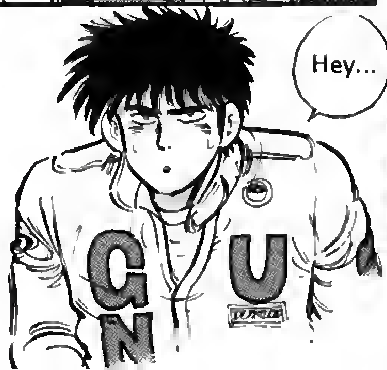

CHATTER CHATTER
Hijiri's got quite a crowd over there...

That kid's begging for trouble...


Hold on.
I think I'll go over and introduce myself!
Pfft, I'm not jealous... Fine, maybe a bit!
CRICK
CRACK

STARE

Hijiri isn't the only driver, you know!
Hey, you there, actin' like a bunch of flies around honey...
SMACK

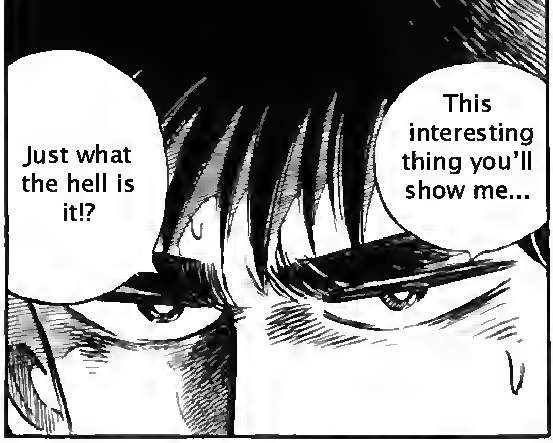

Hey...

Tamo-tsu...
Gu-Gunma ...
The guy with a better preliminary time, Gunma Akagi!
Sure
Akagi...
Hey there!
I'm Akagi!

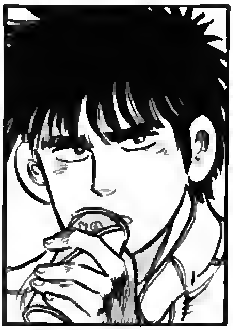
What's the hurry...?
Huh?
?
Tamotsu, come here...

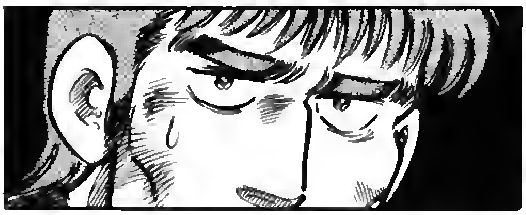
So what's up, Hijiri? You don't look so hot.
FIZZ
Hmph.
...
ドカ…
WHUMP
Heh heh... I took care of those guys!
Oh, it's you... Thanks for that...

It's just a prelimi-nary.
Well...
Then you get a preliminary time worse than me.
You were pretty intense the other night.
"Akagi, make sure to stay on my tail, and I'll show you something interesting!" Heh!
You sure talk big.
Even though you came in 8th in the preliminary!
SNATCH
At this rate, looks like you'll be the one tryin' to catch my tail!
Heh!
What is it...?
This interesting thing...
Seri-ously...
The way you said it got me all interested.

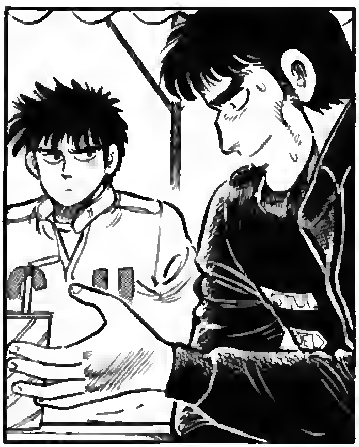

Just what the hell is it!?
This interesting thing you'll show me...

I already have a drink!
D-Don't change the subject.





Why don't you calm down and have a drink?
No need to be so impatient.
MOTUL
NGK

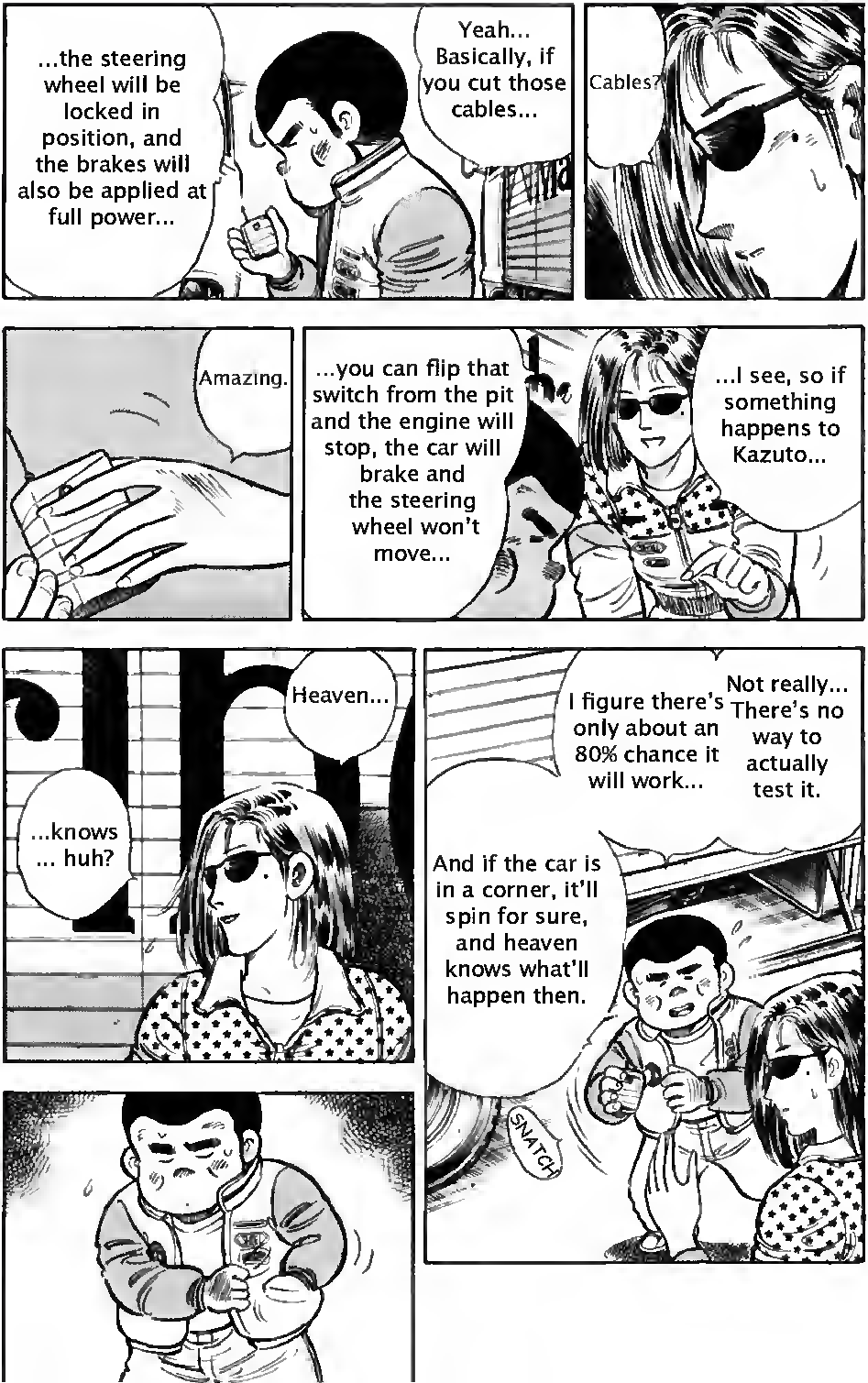


?

Right...
Uh... Yeah...
MOTUL

CLUNK

VROOM
Tamotsu... About that device of yours...
DUNLOP
TRAM
OVER
The device you installed on Hijiri's car to stop it...
!?
It will work, but not well...
It should have an 80% chance to stop the car when it is going straight.
Will... will it work?
How does it work? Tell me!
If I flip the switch on this transmitter, there will be 3 small explosions in the car...
One cuts off the ignition, the other two cut off cables...
Okay... Basically... To keep it simple...

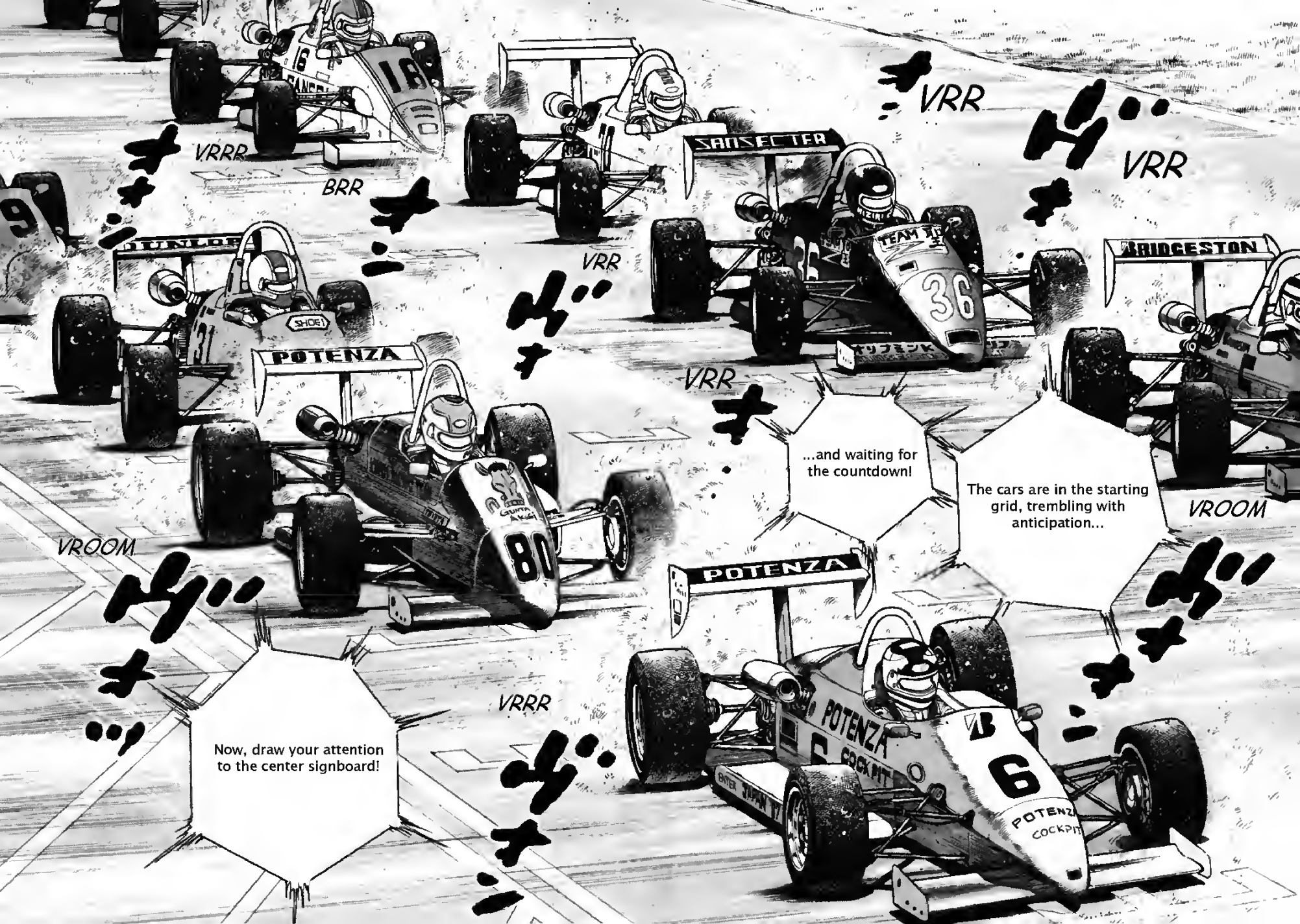

...the steering wheel will be locked in position, and the brakes will also be applied at full power...
Yeah... Basically, if you cut those cables...
Cables?
Amazing.
...you can flip that switch from the pit and the engine will stop, the car will brake and the steering wheel won't move...
...I see, so if something happens to Kazuto...
Heaven...
...knows ... huh?
I figure there's only about an 80% chance it will work...
Not really... There's no way to actually test it.
And if the car is in a corner, it'll spin for sure, and heaven knows what'll happen then.
SNATCH

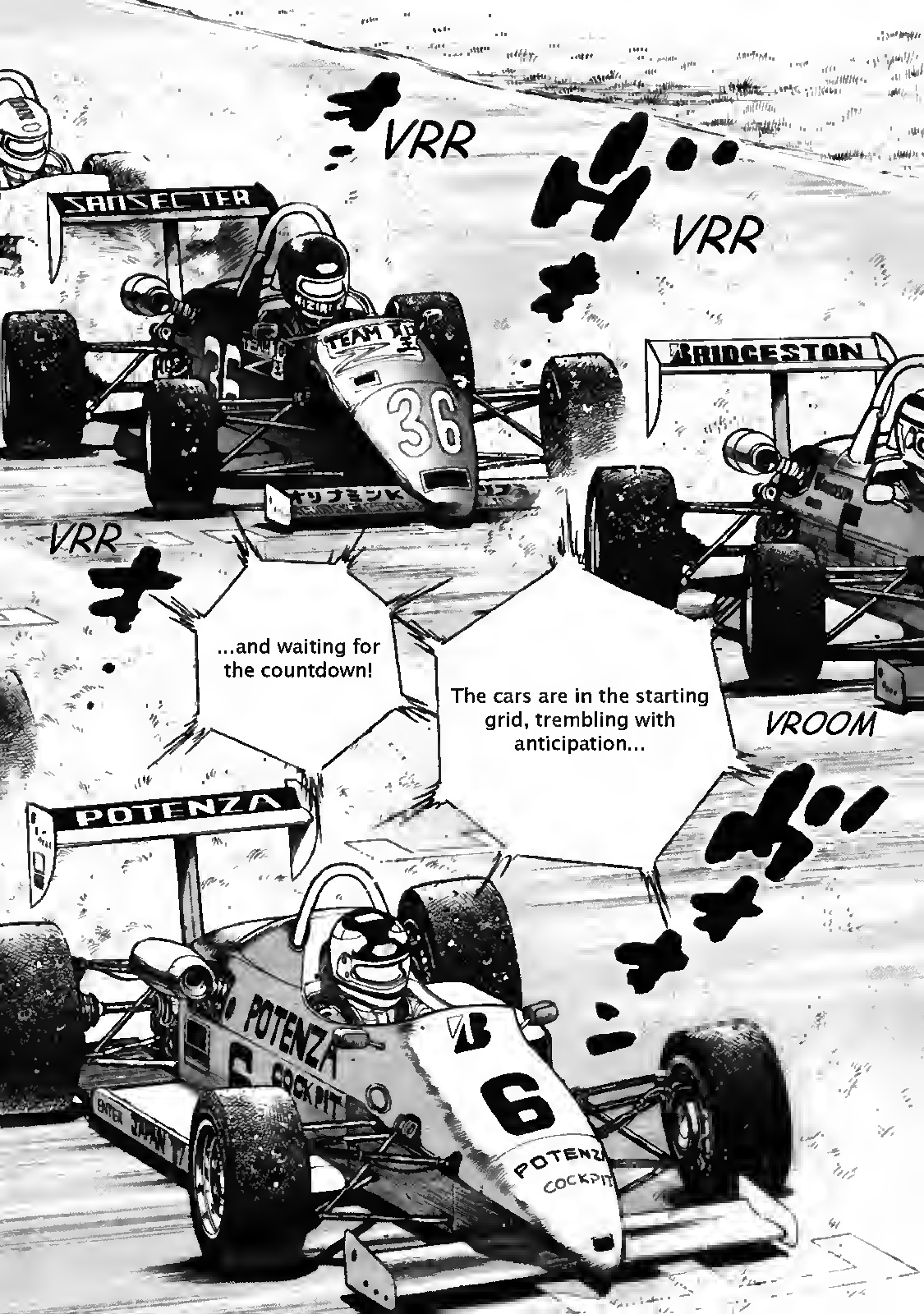
Can I...
Tamotsu, win for me!
Your Daddy promised me, if he loses to your car then he'll come back home!
Can I really... flip this switch!?
Tamotsu...
VRROOM
John Player Special
?
Well, good luck!
Never mind, it's nothing.
Oh...
Huh?

Sorry, Tamotsu...
I have to make a copy of that transmitter and switch them out.
I can't...!
I can't let Kazuto end like this!
...but no matter what...
...I won't let Kazuto have a less than perfect end!
GRIP
Sleep meds
睡眠薬
...I'll join him...
Then...
...were you and Tamotsu talking about?
What...
MOTUL
NGK
GULP
Ruiko!

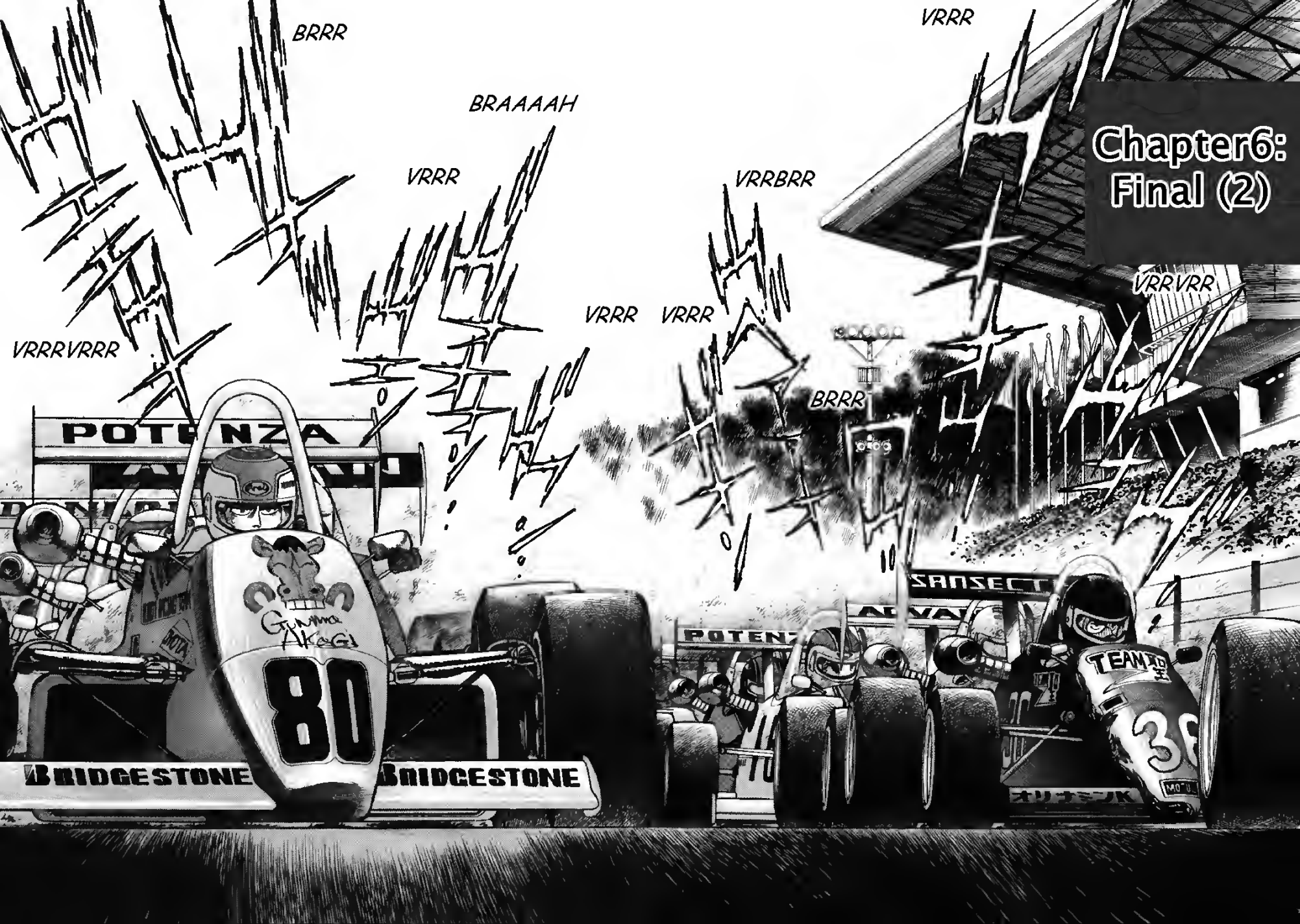
Don't you trust me?
Ruiko... Did you...!?
You didn't go and tell Tamotsu anything, did you...?
About my eyes...
All I care about right now is making sure you get to race the perfect "final."
You're everything to me!
I love you, Kazuto...
That's right... Our final...
Ruiko...

Damn Hijiri...
It's almost time!
What's wrong? You look down...
It's noth-ing.
... Nah ...
Something's up with Hijiri!
RAAAHHH
The final race of Round 1 of the F3 Series Championship is about to begin!
CLAP CLAP CLAP!
PHEW
SEIKO


VRRR
BRR
VRR
VRR
VRR
VRR
VROOM
VROOM
VRRR
Now, draw your attention to the center signboard!
...and waiting for the countdown!
The cars are in the starting grid, trembling with anticipation...
POTENZA
DUNLOP
BRIDGESTON
SANSECTER
SHOEI
COCK PIT

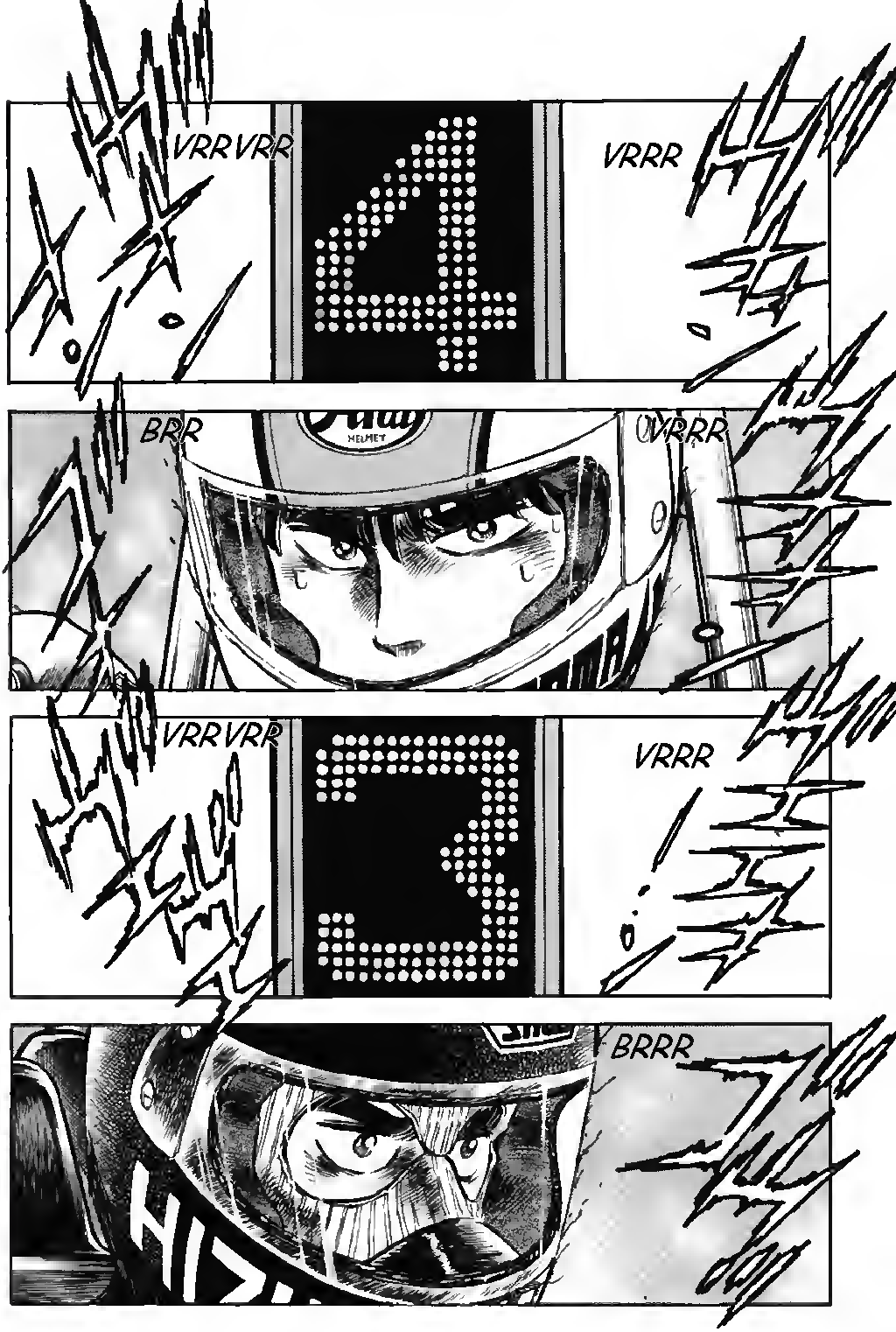

VRR
VRR
SANSECTER
TEAM
36
BRIDGESTON
VRR
...and waiting for the countdown!
The cars are in the starting grid, trembling with anticipation...
VROOM
POTENZA
POTENZA
COCKPIT
6
POTENZA
COCKPIT

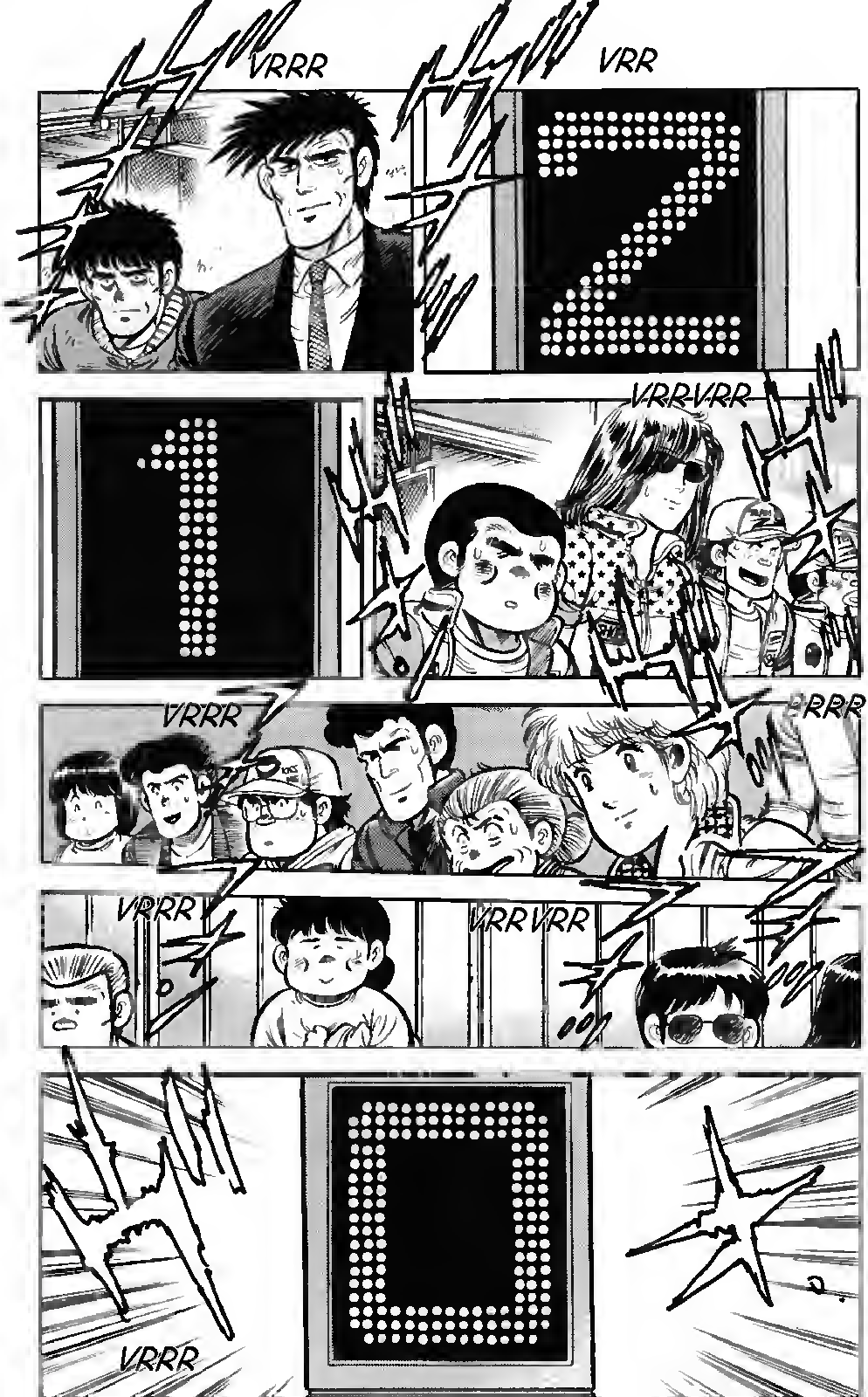
VRRR
BRR
VRR
POTENZA
SHOEI
VROOM
VRRR
Now, draw your attention to the center signboard!

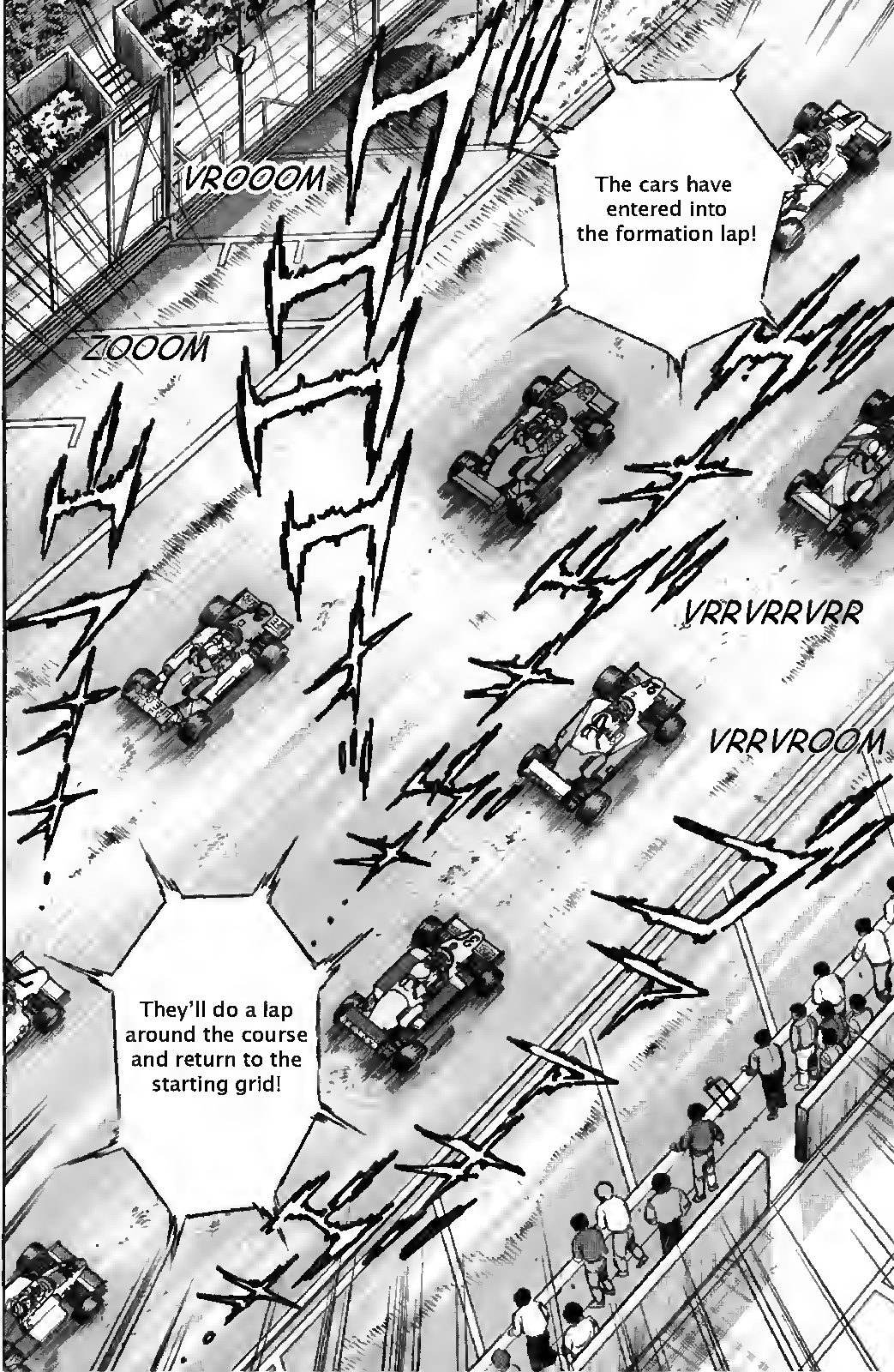

BRRR
BRAAAAH
VRRR
VRRBRR
VRRR
VRRR
VRRVRR
VRRVRR
BRRR
Chapter6:
Final (2)
POTENZA
BRIDGESTONE
BRIDGESTONE
80
Gunma
Akagi
TEAM
SANSECT

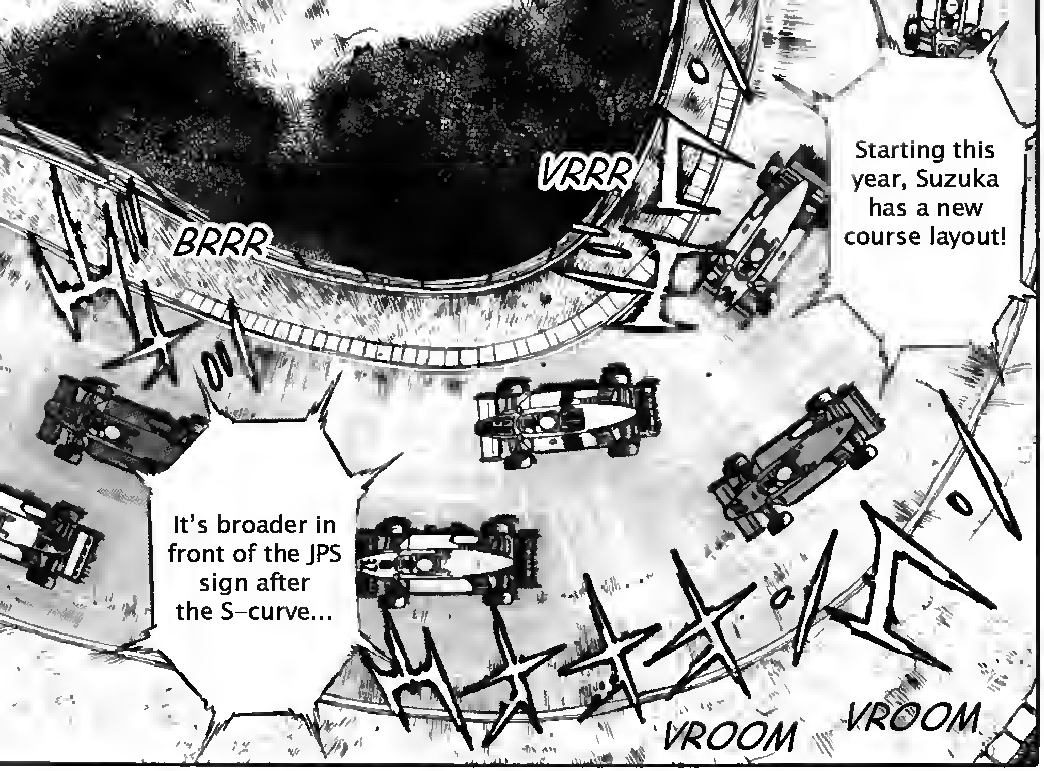
VRRR
Chapter6:
Final (2)
VRRBRR
VRRR
VRRVRR
BRRR
SANSECT
POTEN
TEAM
3
MOTUL
オリナミンK

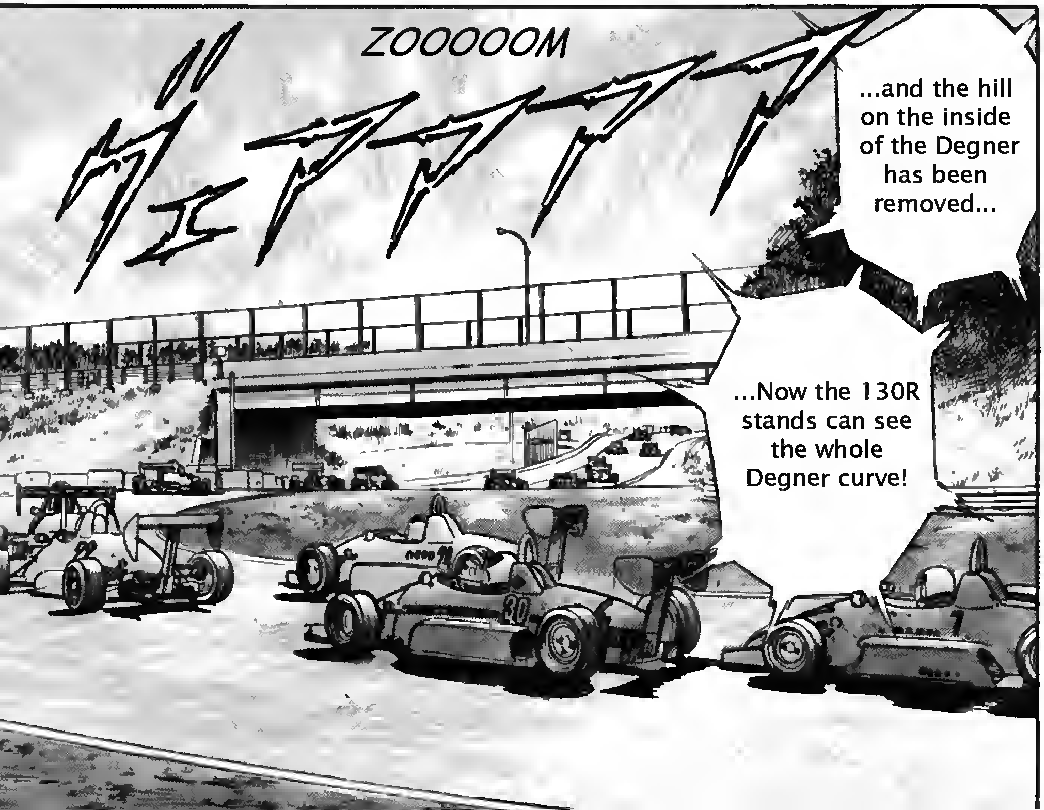
BRRR
BRAAAAH
VRRR
VRRR
VRRRVRRR
POTENZA
80
BRIDGESTONE
BRIDGESTONE


VRRVRR
VRRR
BRR
VRRR
VRRVRR
VRRR
BRRR

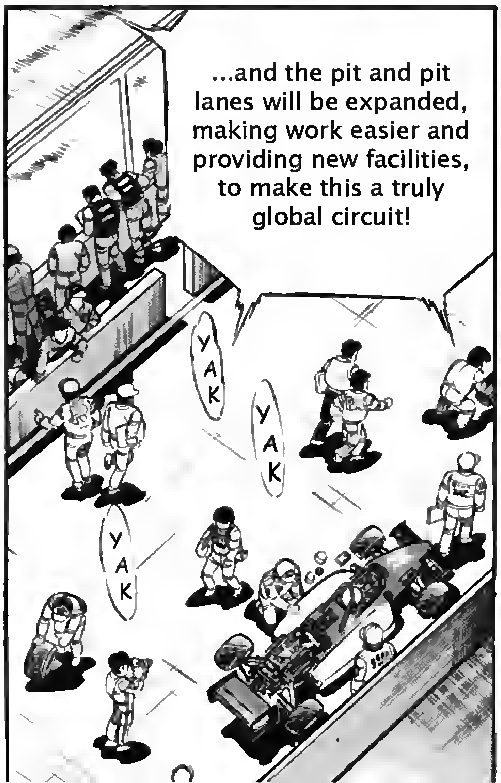

VRRR
VRR
VRR-VRR
VRRR
RRR
VRRR
VRRVRR
VRRR


VROOOM
ZOOOM
The cars have entered into the formation lap!
VRRVRRVRR
VRRVROOM
They'll do a lap around the course and return to the starting grid!

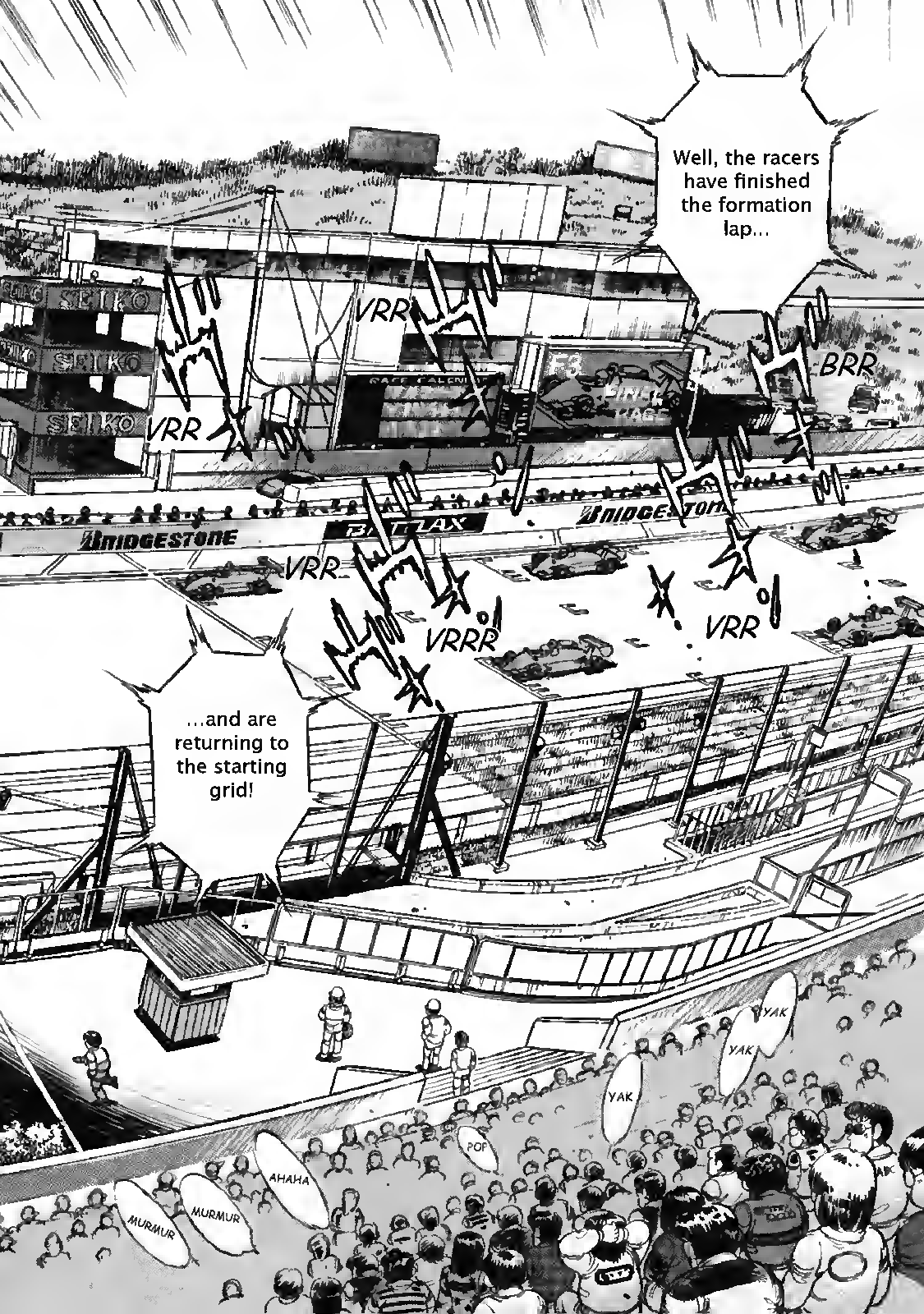

VRRR
BRRR
Starting this year, Suzuka has a new course layout!
It's broader in front of the JPS sign after the S-curve...
VROOM
VROOM

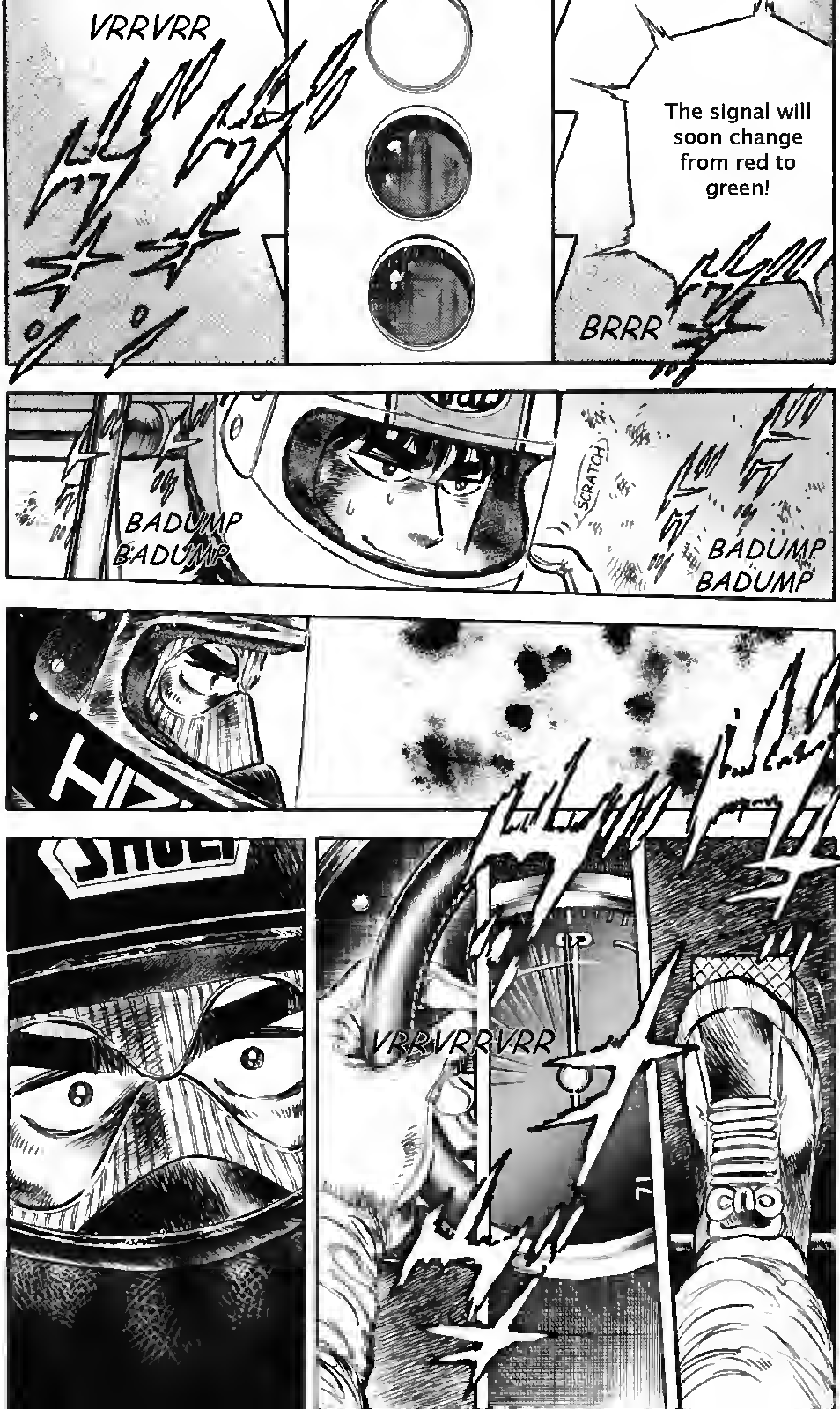

ZOOOOOM
...and the hill on the inside of the Degner has been removed...
...Now the 130R stands can see the whole Degner curve!

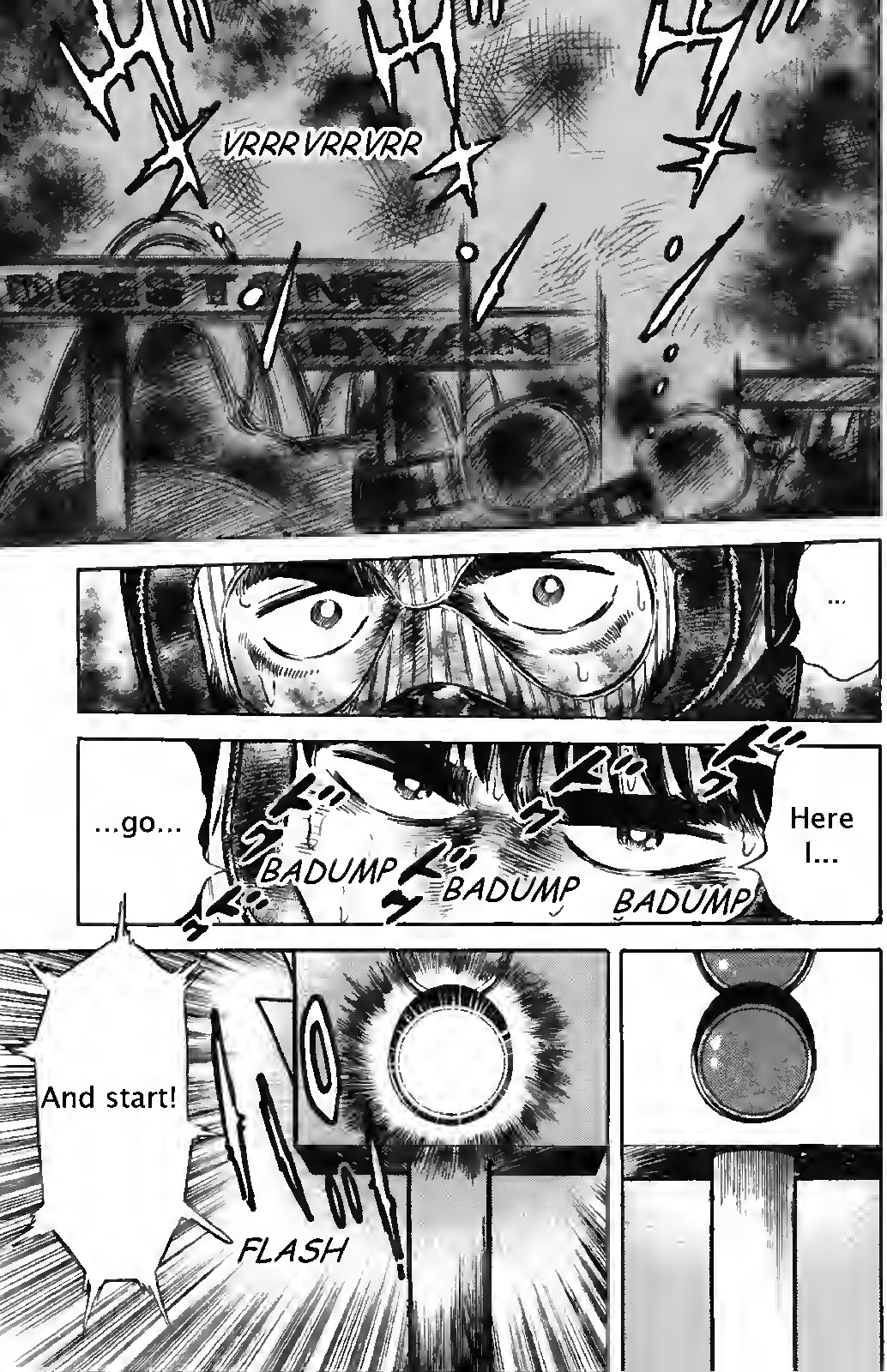
VRRVRROOM
The outer escape zone for the hairpin curve has been widened...
...so safety measures have been improved all around!


...and the pit and pit lanes will be expanded, making work easier and providing new facilities, to make this a truly global circuit!
YAK
YAK
YAK

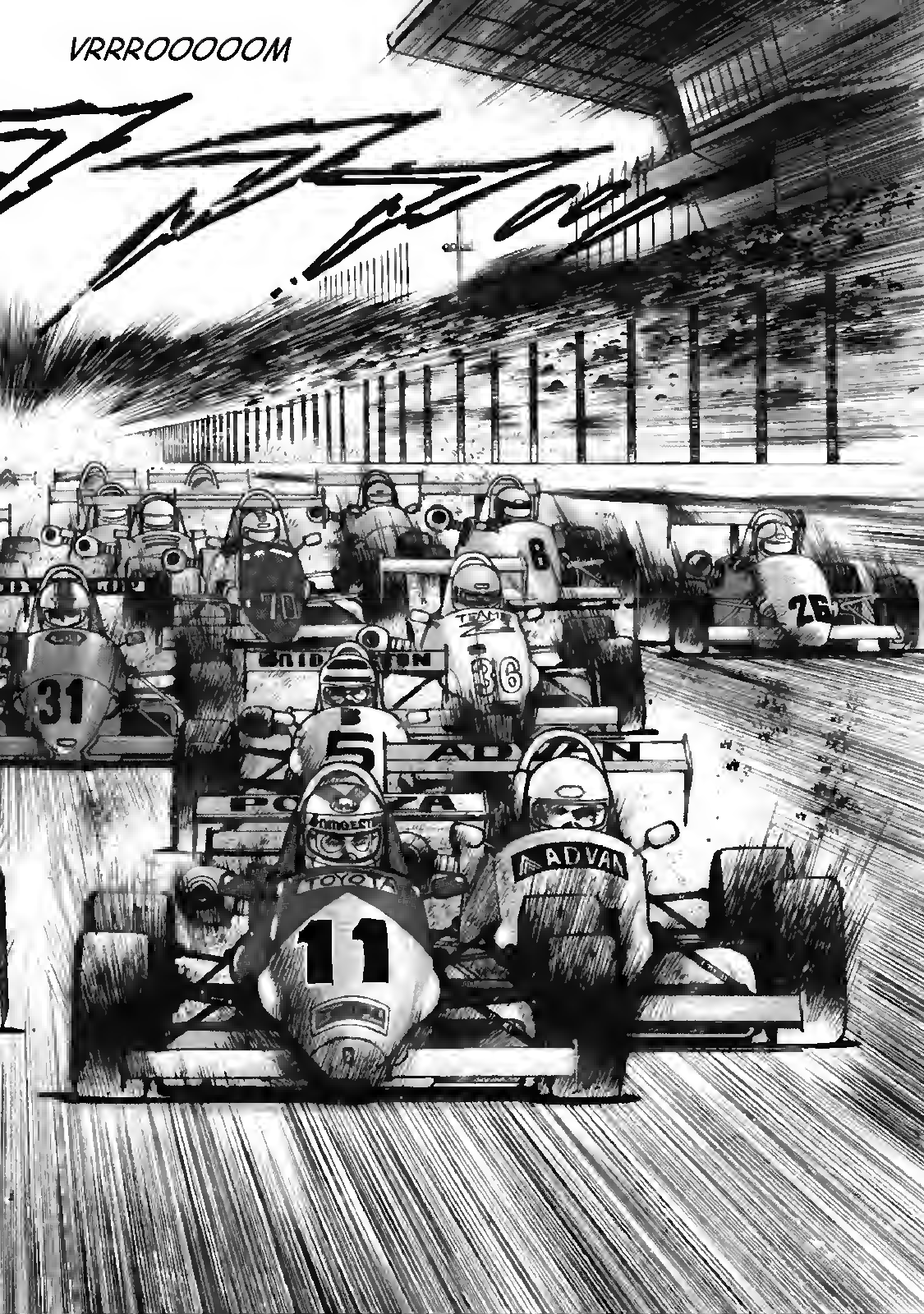
Although construction isn't finished yet...
SEIKO
VRRRR
This Seiko tower will also be reborn as a large control tower...


Well, the racers have finished the formation lap...
VRR
VRR
BRR
VRR
VRRR
VRR
...and are returning to the starting grid!
SEIKO
SEIKO
SEIKO
BRIDGESTONE
YAK
YAK
YAK
POF
AHAHA
MURMUR
MURMUR

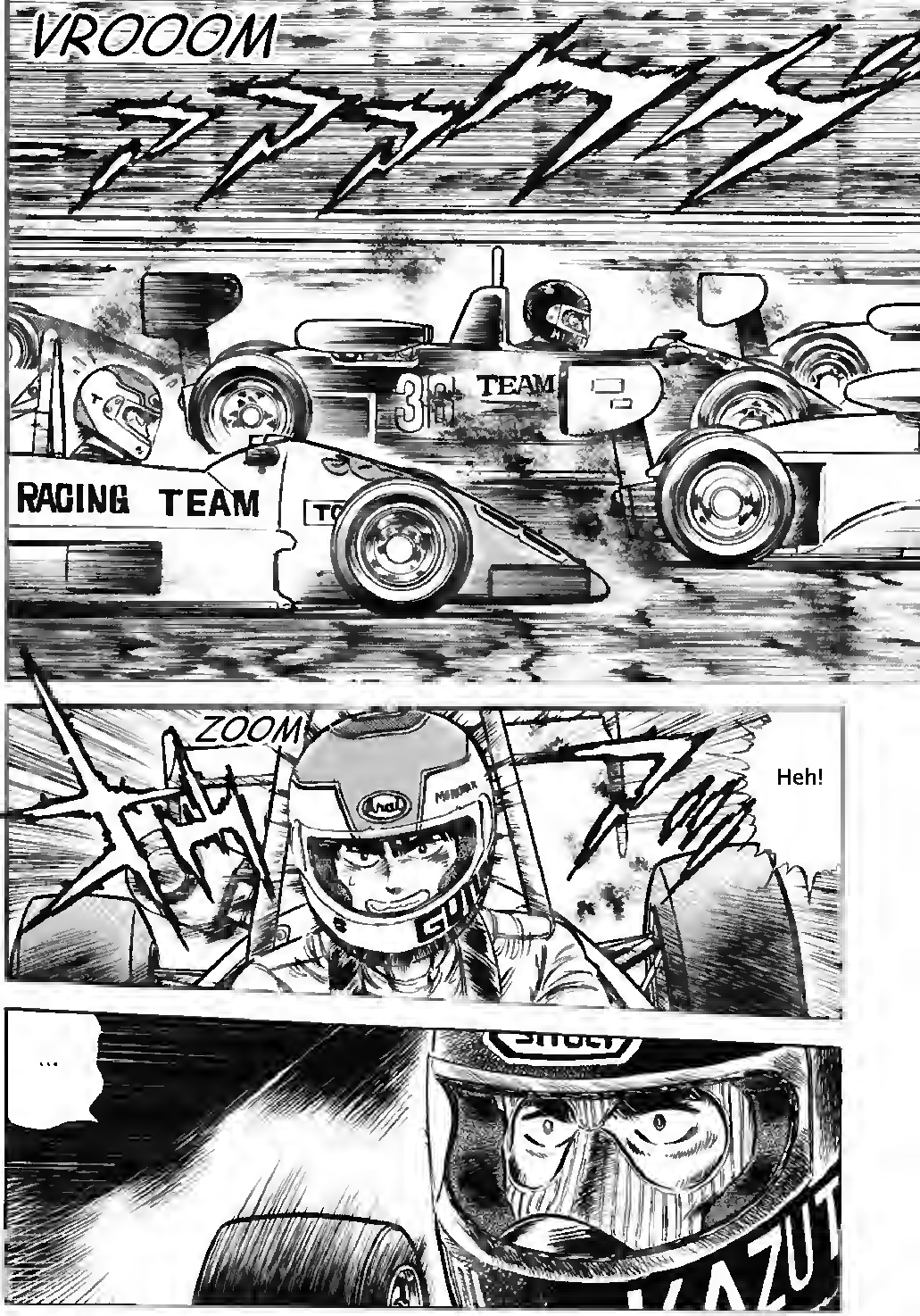

VRRVRR
The signal will soon change from red to green!
BRRR
BADUMP BADUMP
SCRATCH
BADUMP BADUMP
VRRVRRVRR

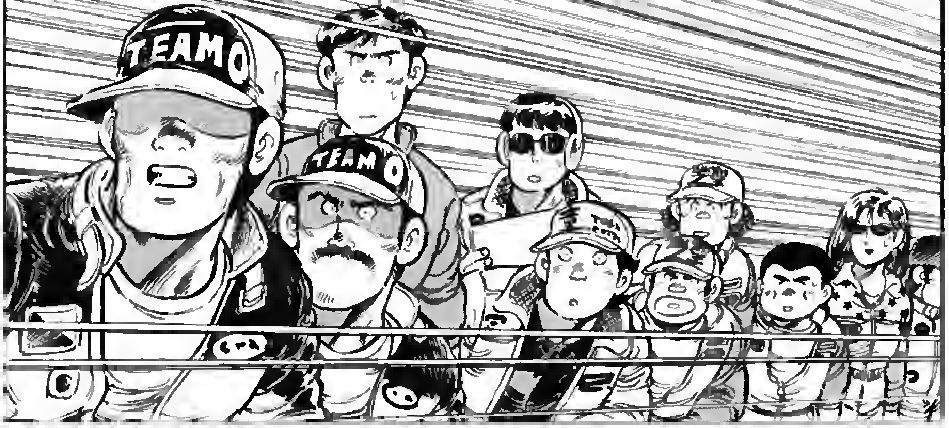

VRRRVRRVRR
...
...go...
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
Here I...
And start!
FLASH

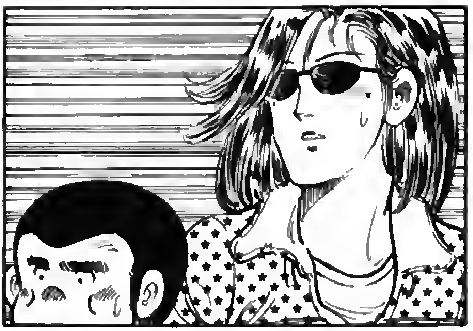
VRRROOOOOM
Heh!
2
11
80
31
45
5
6
70
26
36
ADVAN
TOYOTA
YOKOHAMA


VRRROOOOOM
31
70
36
8
26
ADVAN
TOYOTA
11

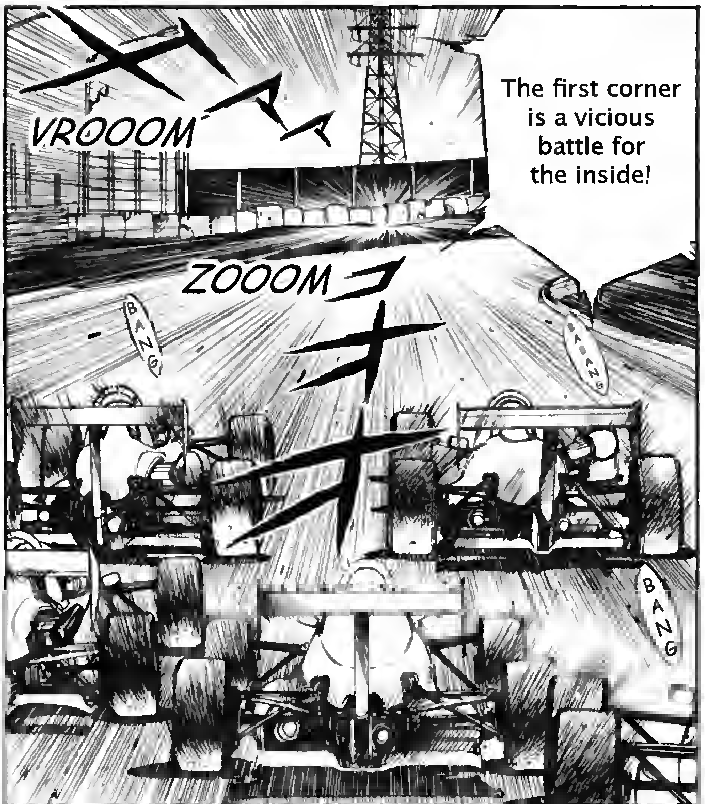
Heh!
80
45
2
SHOEI

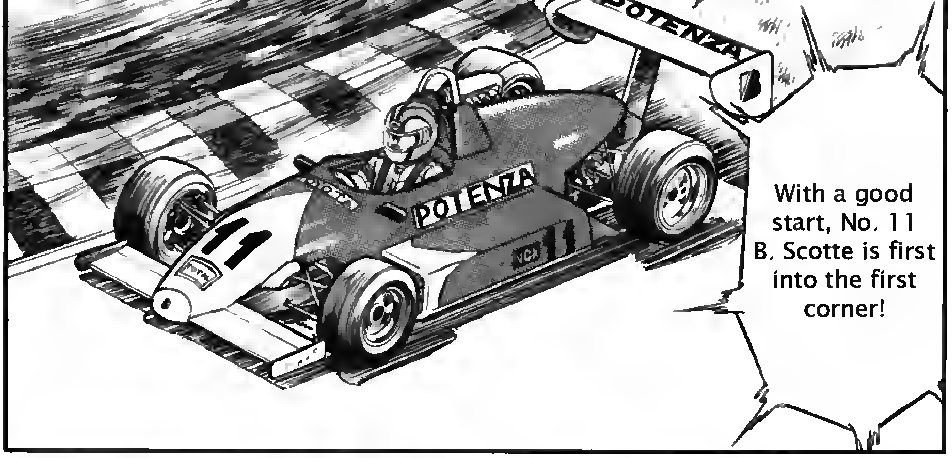

VROOOM
RACING TEAM
TEAM
ZOOM
Heh!
...


TEAM
TEAM

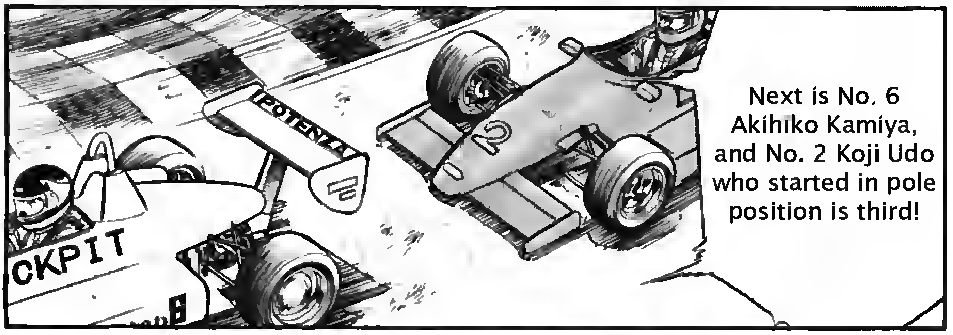


BUMP
BUMP

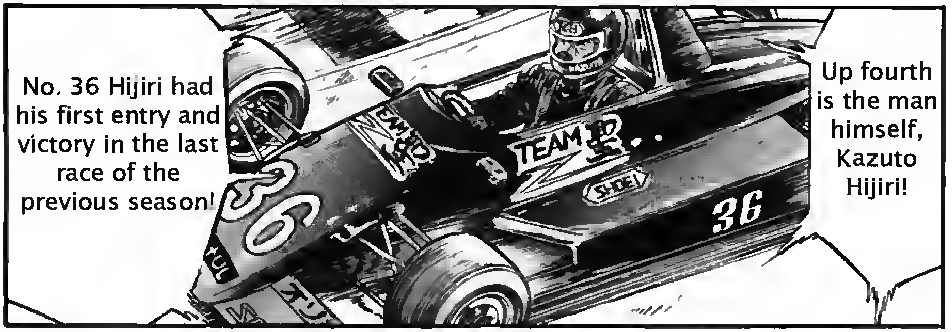

VROOOM
ZOOOM
BANG
BANG
BANG
The first corner is a vicious battle for the inside!



With a good start, No. 11 B. Scotte is first into the first corner!



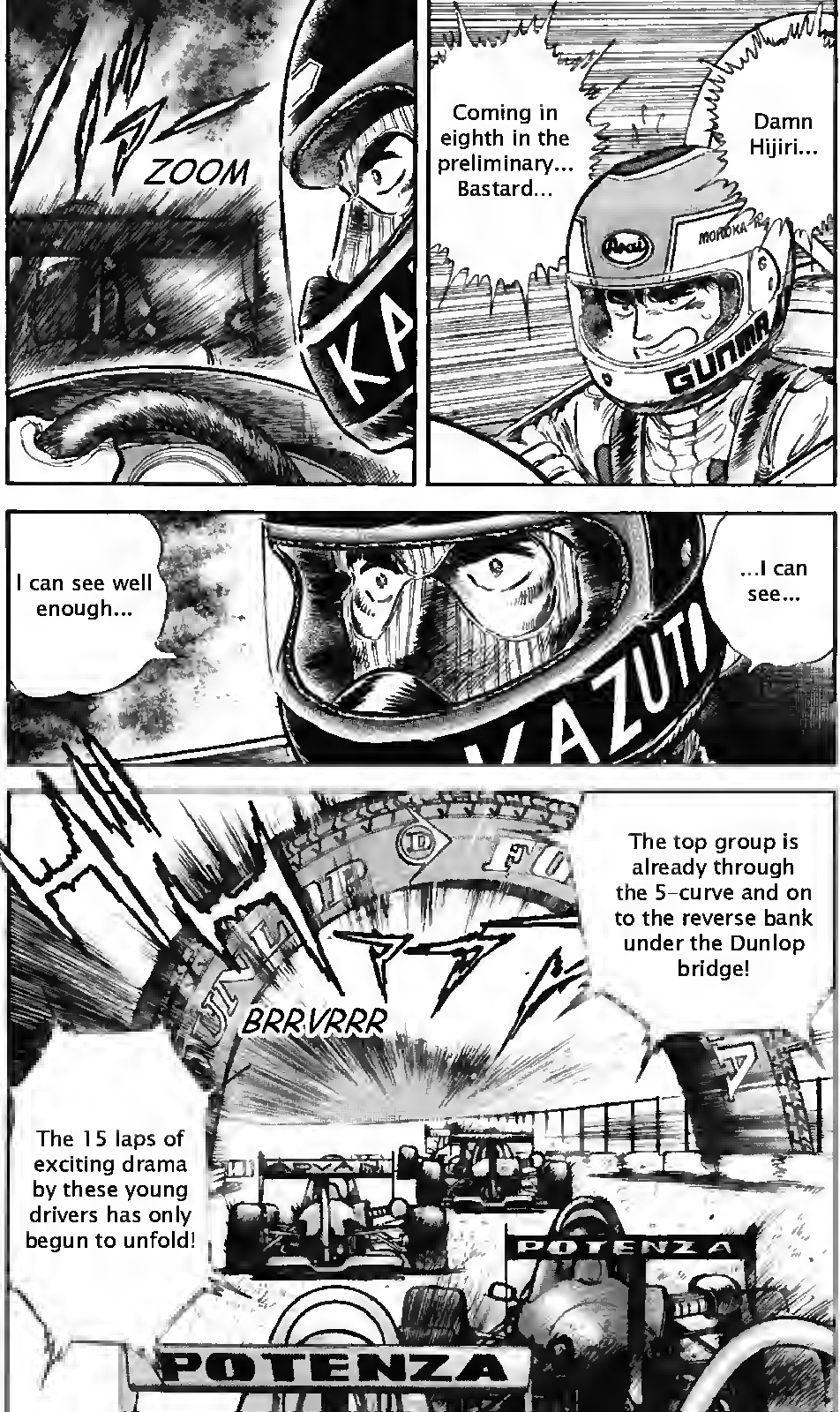
Next is No. 6 Akihiko Kamiya, and No. 2 Koji Udo who started in pole position is third!



No. 36 Hijiri had his first entry and victory in the last race of the previous season!

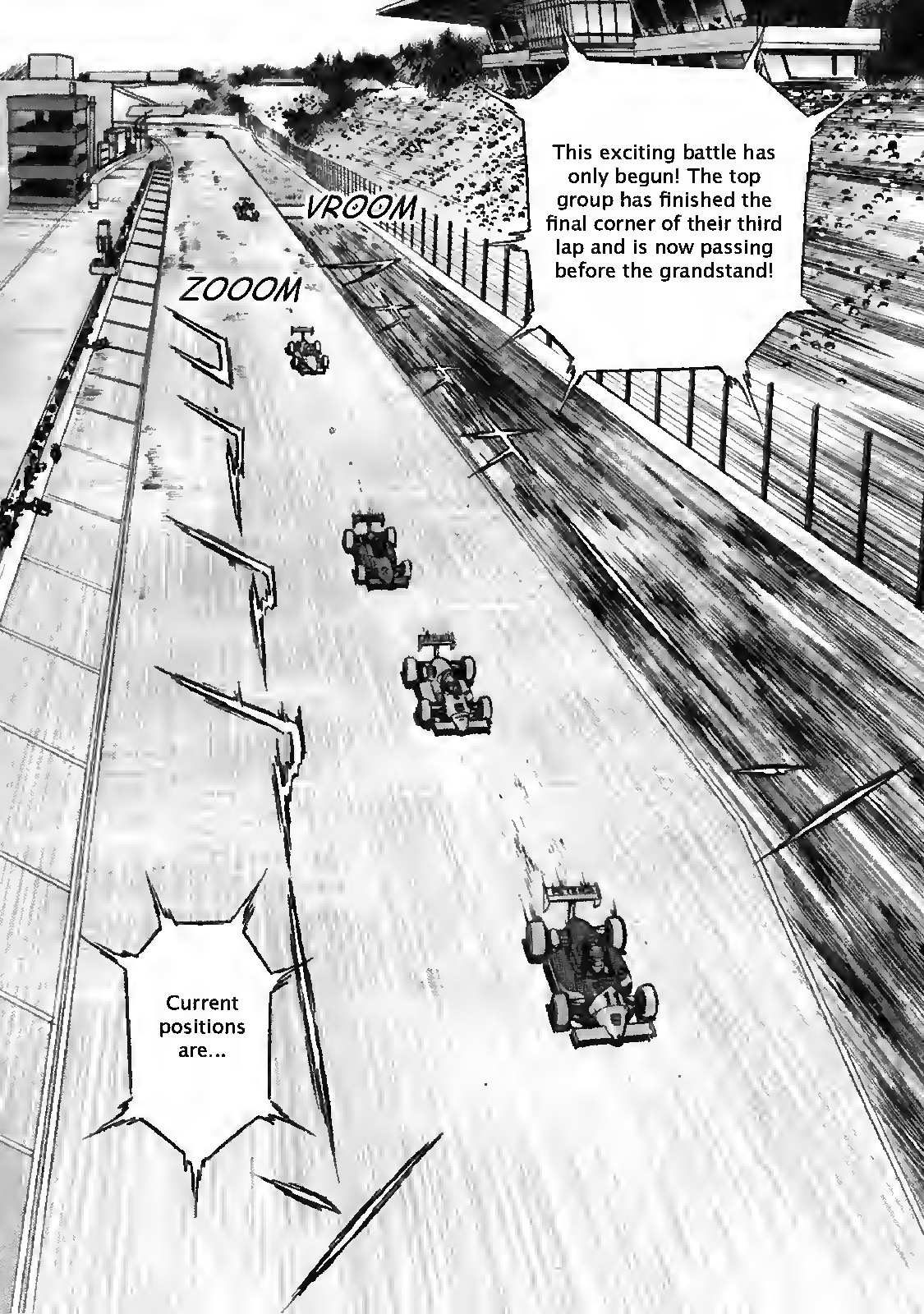
Up fourth is the man himself, Kazuto Hijiri!

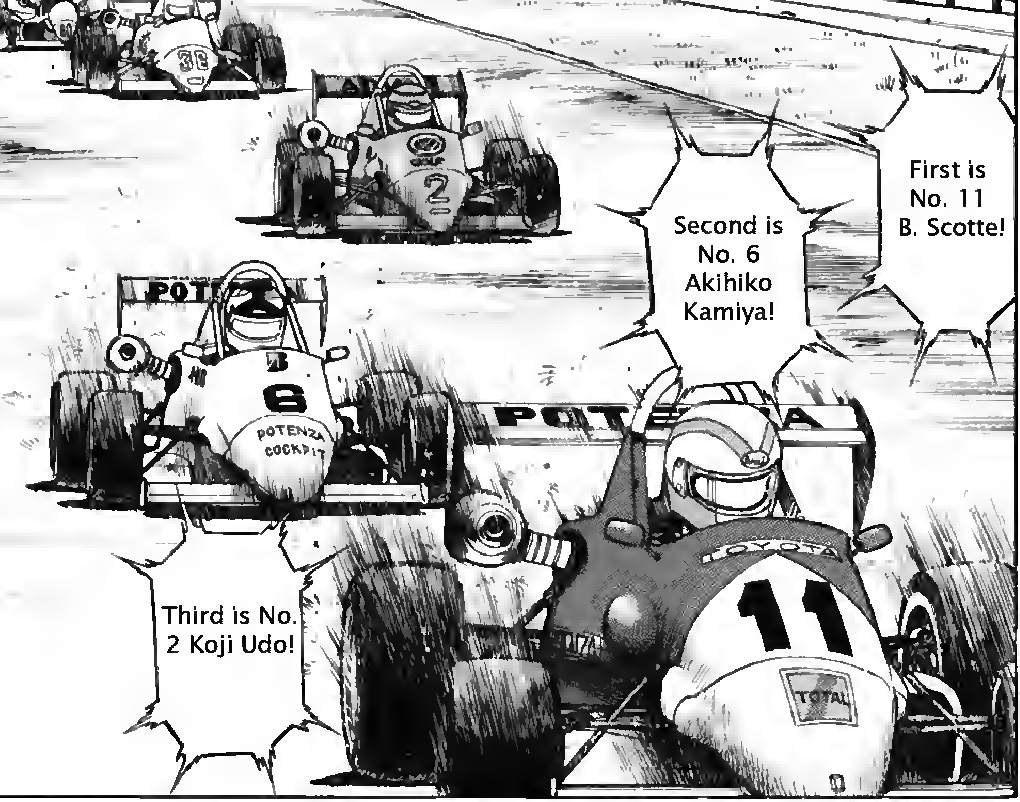
Up fifth is another rookie, No. 80 Gunma Akagi, who showed a fine performance in the preliminary finishing in fifth!

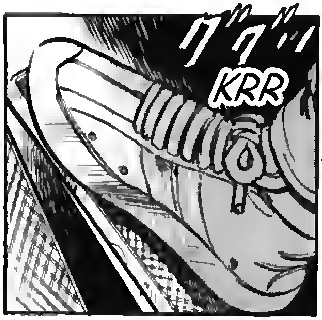

ZOOM
KA
Coming in eighth in the preliminary... Bastard...
Damn Hijiri...
GUNMA
I can see well enough...
...I can see...
YAZUTI
BRRVRRR
The top group is already through the 5-curve and on to the reverse bank under the Dunlop bridge!
The 15 laps of exciting drama by these young drivers has only begun to unfold!
POTENZA
POTENZA

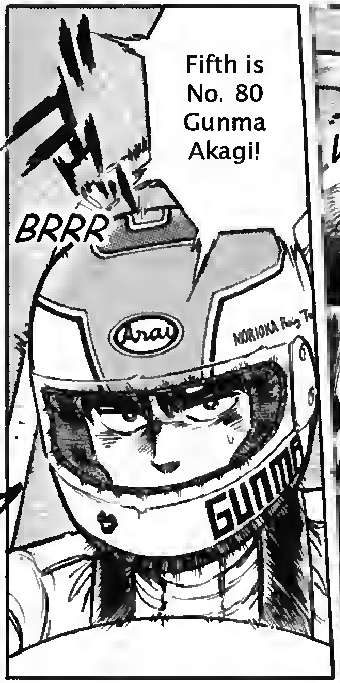
Bring Daddy back to Momma...
Win for Momma...
MÜMBLE MÜMBLE
Tamotsu, please win, please win...
RAHHH
YEAHHH
...
Huh, Eijiro...?
He's sticking to the tail of the top group... That's a good position!
YAK
YAK
VRRRR
Nothing...
Never mind...
Huh?
The... final...

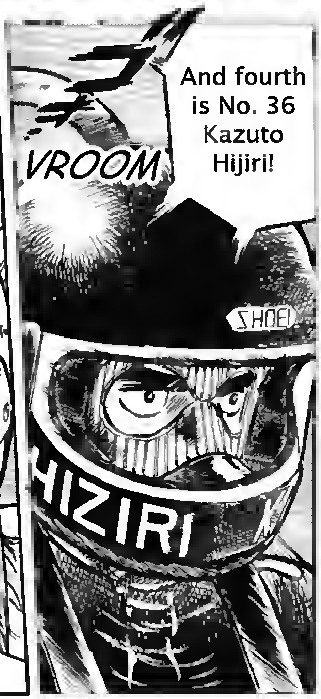
Chapter 7:
Final (3)


This exciting battle has only begun! The top group has finished the final corner of their third lap and is now passing before the grandstand!
VROOM
ZOOOM
Current positions are...

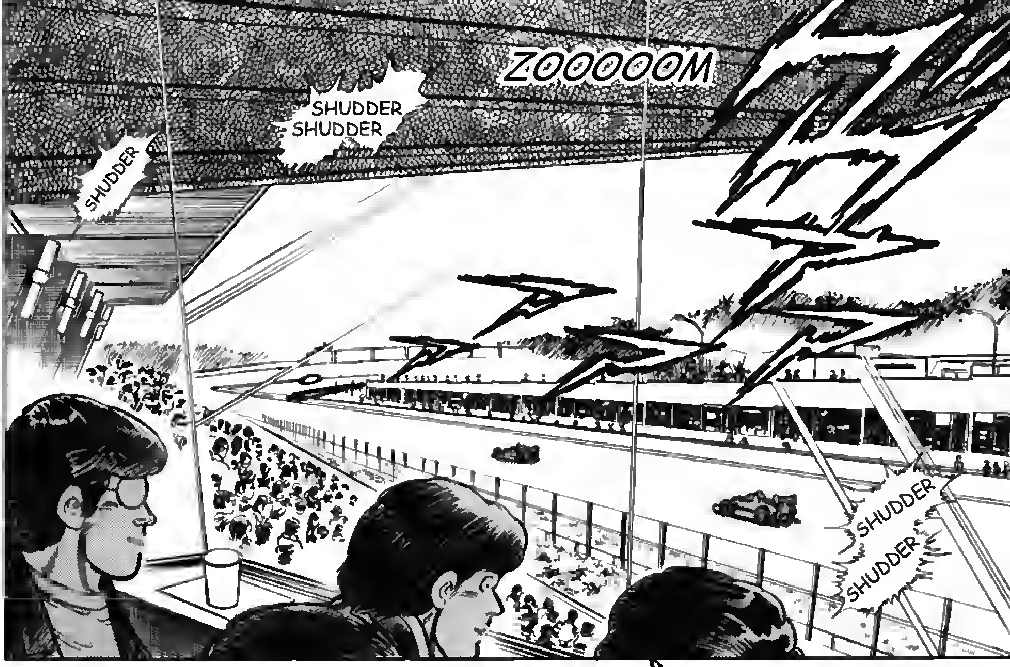

First is No. 11 B. Scotte!
Second is No. 6 Akihiko Kamiya!
Third is No. 2 Koji Udo!
POTENZA
POTENZA COCKPIT
HONDA
TOTAL

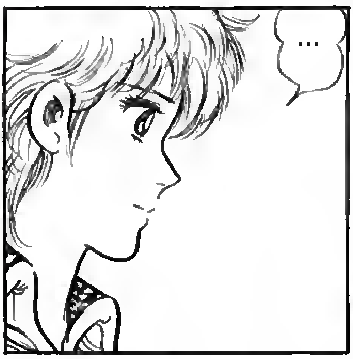

KRR


Fifth is No. 80 Gunma Akagi!
BRRR
Arai
GUNMA


And fourth is No. 36 Kazuto Hijiri!
VROOM
SHOEI
HIZIRI

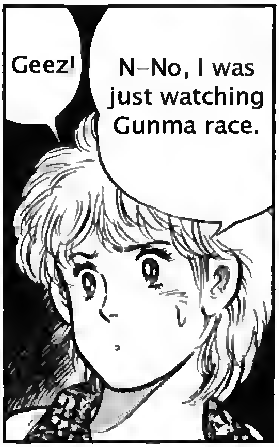
VRR

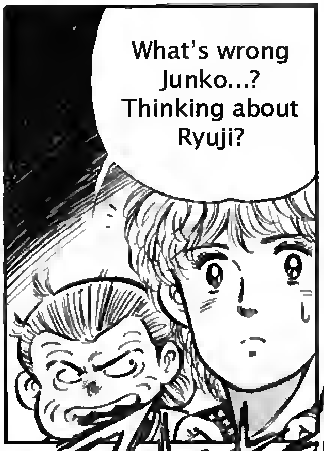

ZOOOOOM
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER


...

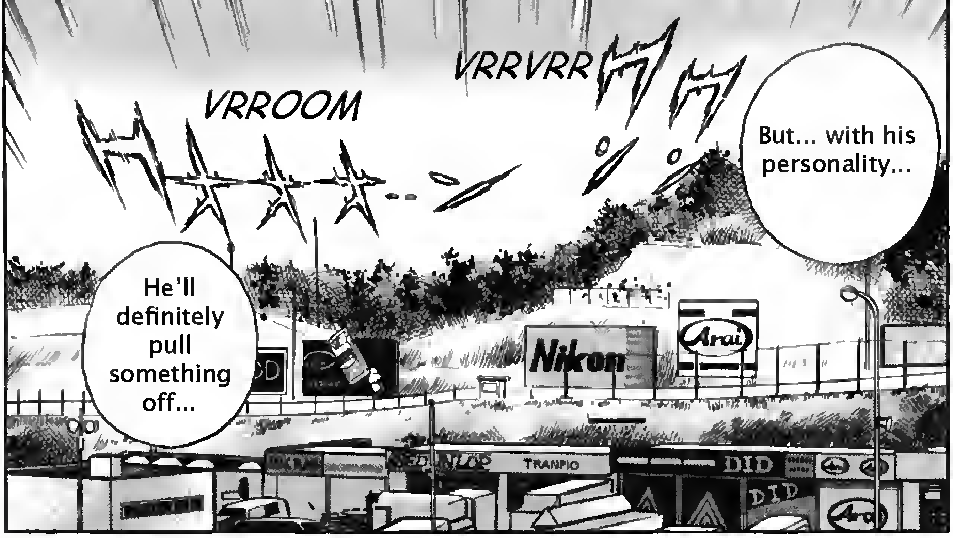
The sound bounces off the roof too here in the grandstand.
VROOM
That's a lot of noise... My ears hurt.

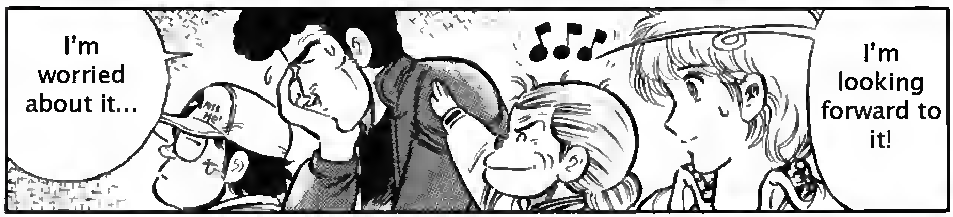
I guess when it comes to F3, not even Gunma can leave everyone in his dust.

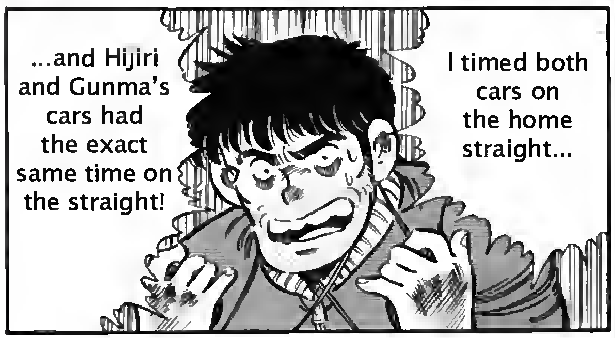

Geez!
N-No, I was just watching Gunma race.


What's wrong Junko...? Thinking about Ryuji?

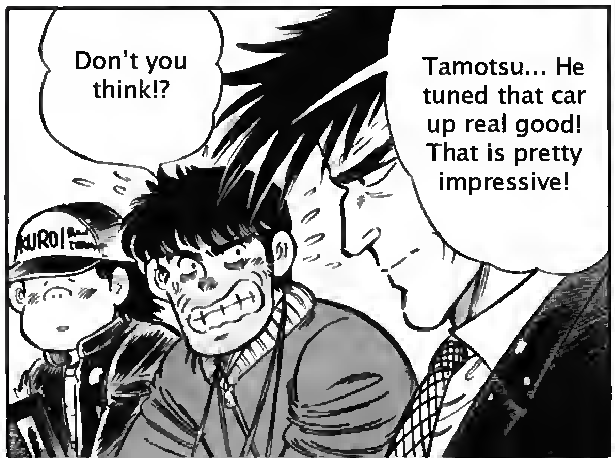
VROOOM


VRROOM
VRRVRR
But... with his personality...
He'll definitely pull something off...
Nikon
Arai
TRANPIO
DID

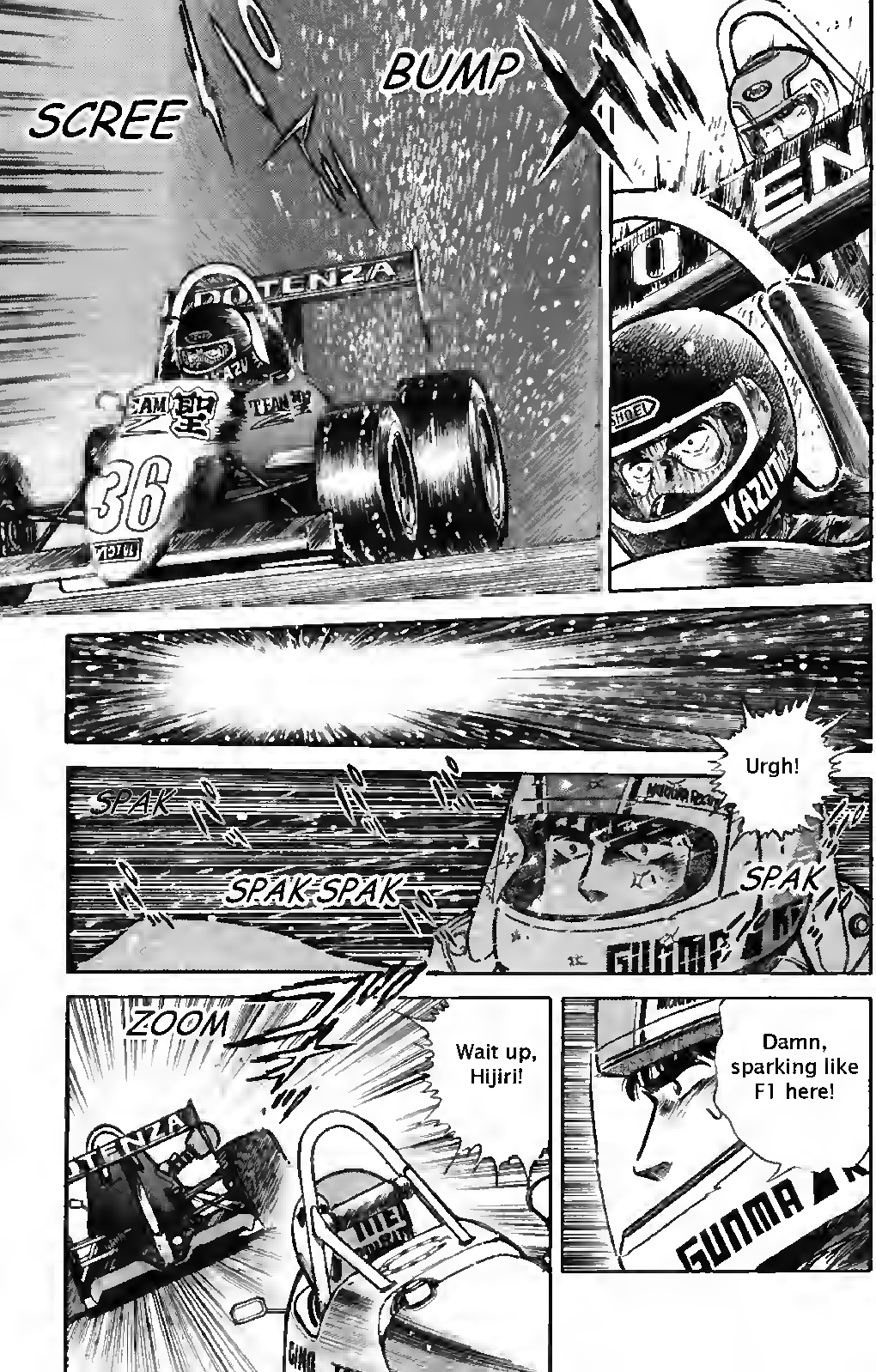

I'm worried about it...
I'm looking forward to it!


...and Hijiri and Gunma's cars had the exact same time on the straight!
I timed both cars on the home straight...

Hey, look at this Kuroi!
The same time. the same!

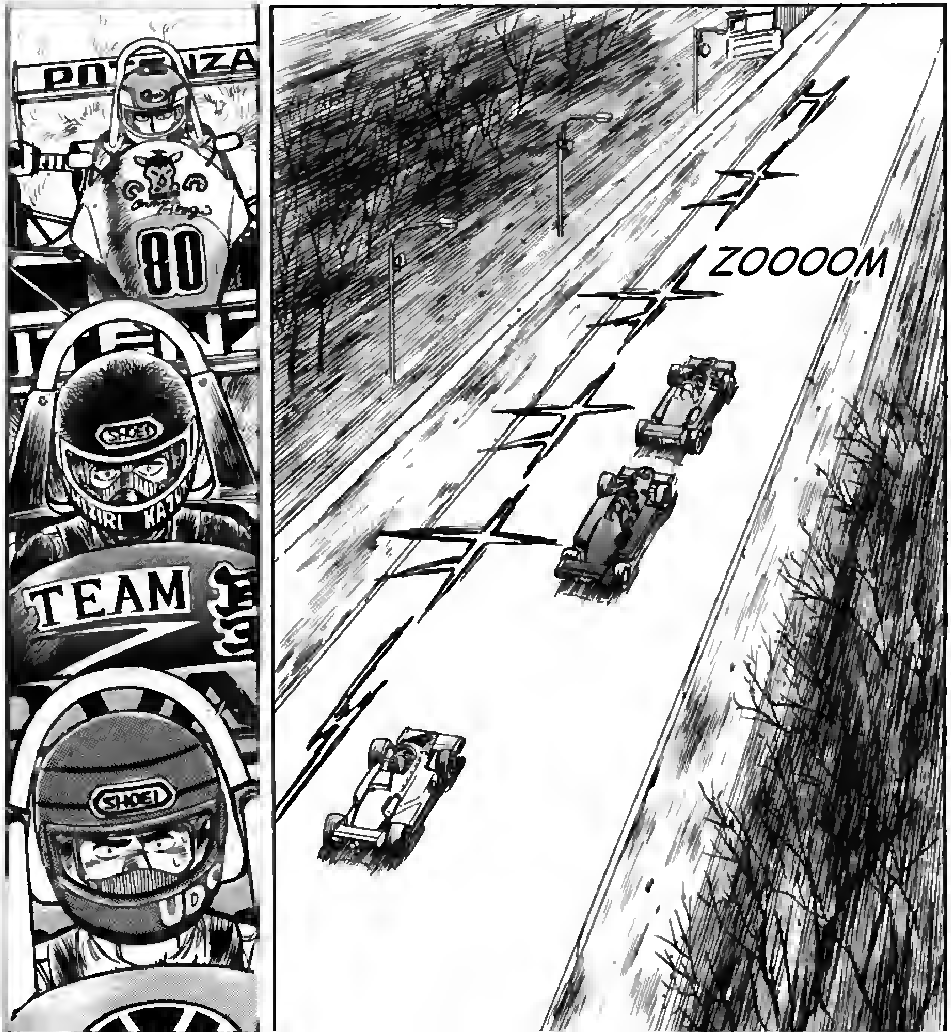

Don't you think!?
Tamotsu... He tuned that car up real good! That is pretty impressive!
KUROI

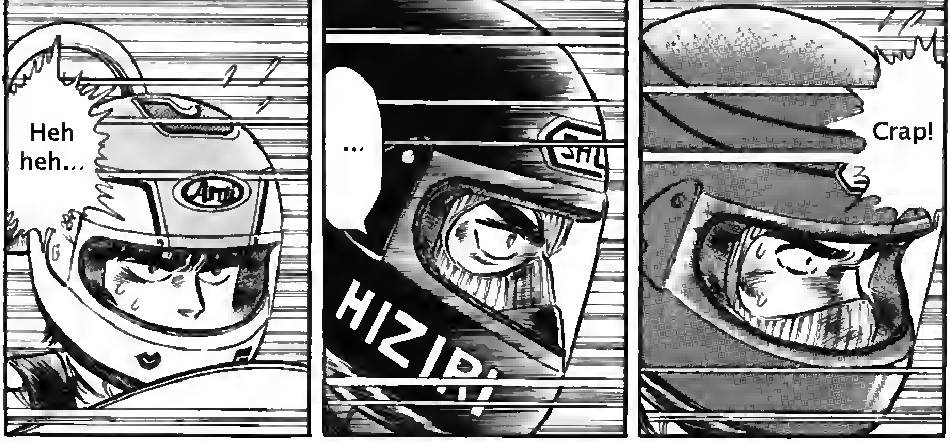
VRROOM
Heh, that kid.
At his age, competing on the same level as his dad with over a decade more experience!
You've got a fine son!
Yeah, I agree.
That's right. Don't move aside. Not even for your own son!
No way I'll lose!
But I'm not gonna lose!
VROOM
FORMUR
We're animals after all...

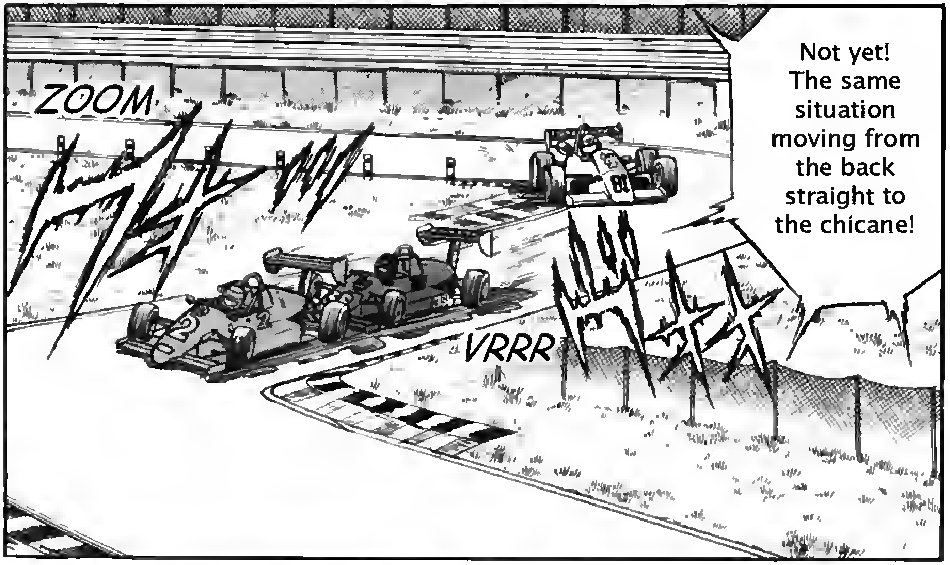

SCREE
BUMP
TENZA
36
KAZUKI
Urgh!
SPAK
SPAK-SPAK
SPAK
ZOOM
Wait up, Hijiri!
Damn, sparking like F1 here!
GUNMA

At this rate, Udo is going to be shown up by the rookie Hijiri!
Hang in there Udo!
YAY
No. 36 Kazuto Hijiri, using the hairpin to move in on No. 2 Koji Udo in third!
VRRVRR
Well excuse me for being desperate!
SUMMA AKAGI
A vicious battle for third!
VRR
Behind them, No. 80 Akagi is desperately keeping up!
VROOOM

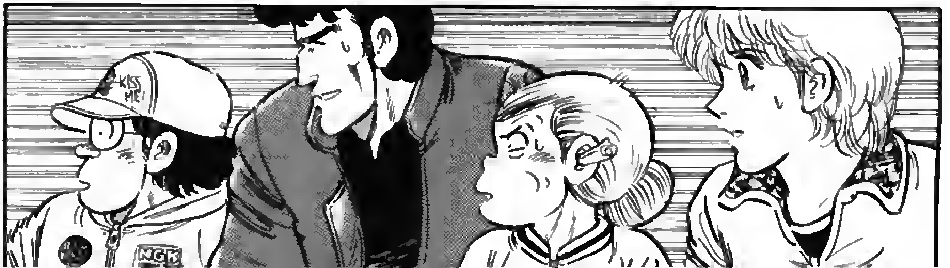
Will he make his move on the nearly straight 1000R after the spoon!?
Kazuto Hijiri, keeping the pressure on Udo in third!
BRRVRROOM


80
TEAM
ZOOOOM

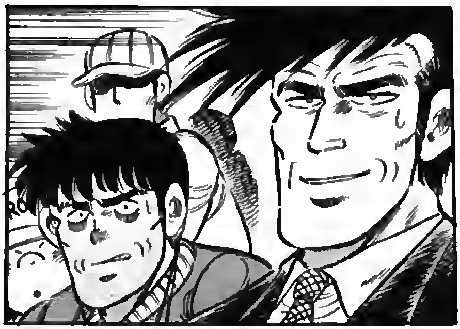

Heh heh...
...
HIZIP
Crap!

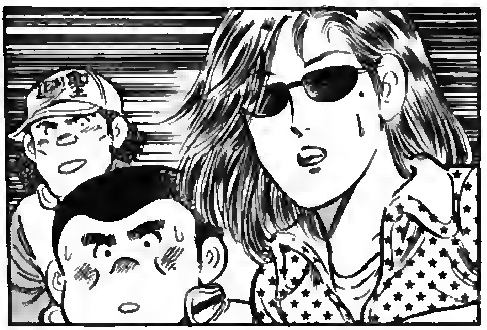

ZOOM
VRRR
Not yet! The same situation moving from the back straight to the chicane!

MURMUR
Now, moving out of the last corner!


KISS ME!

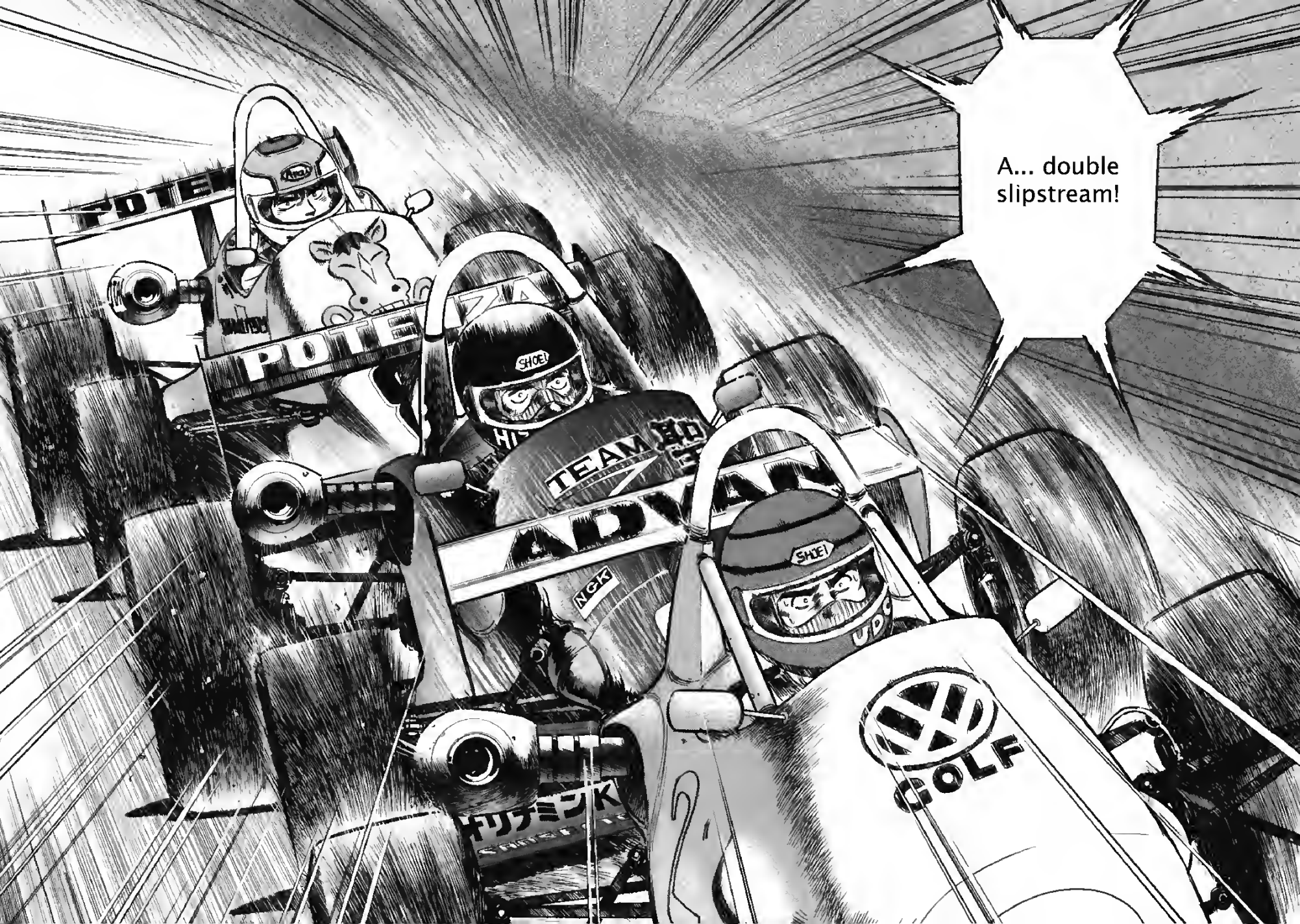
ALPINE
BRIDGESTONE
BRAAAAAAAH
There!

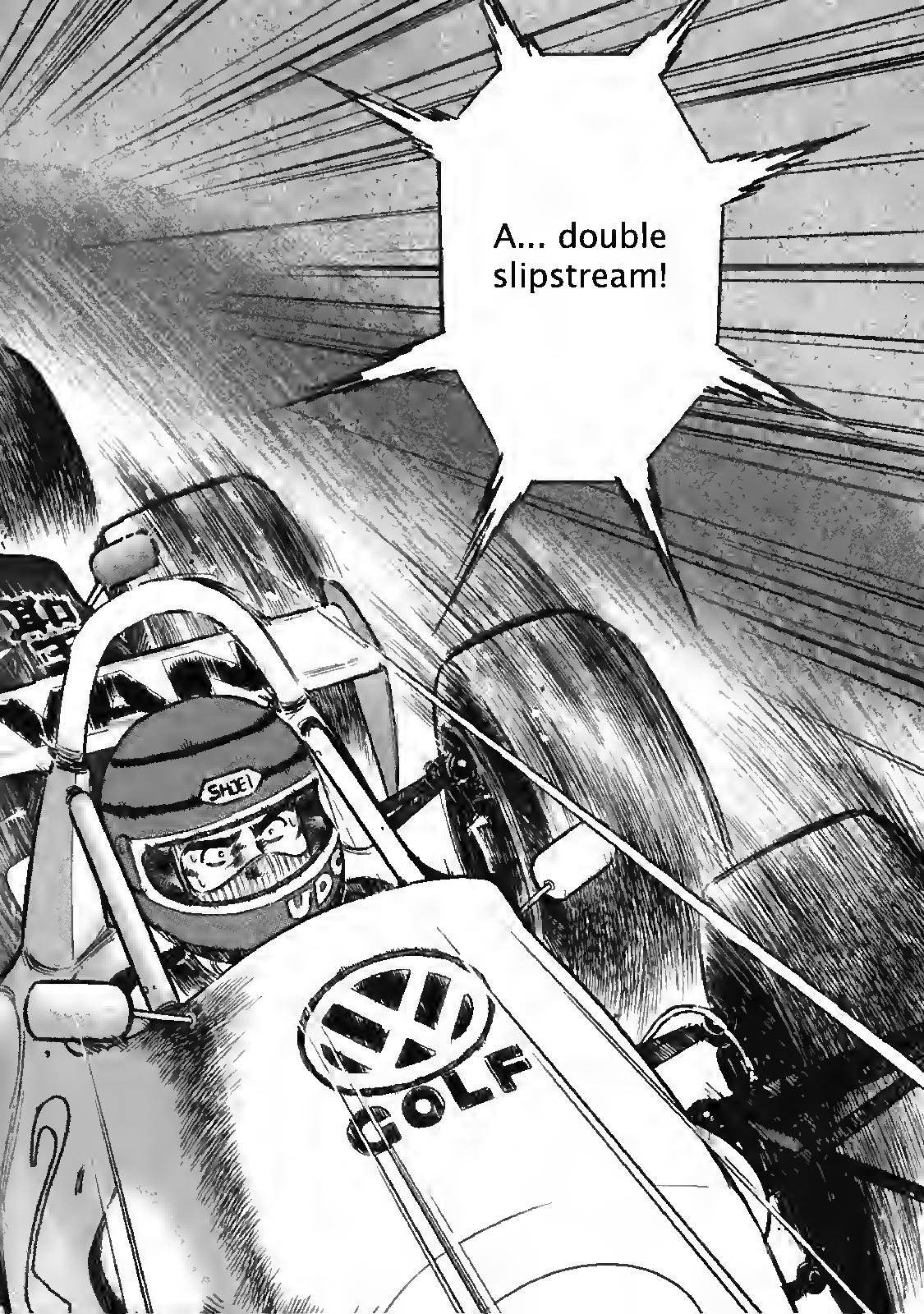


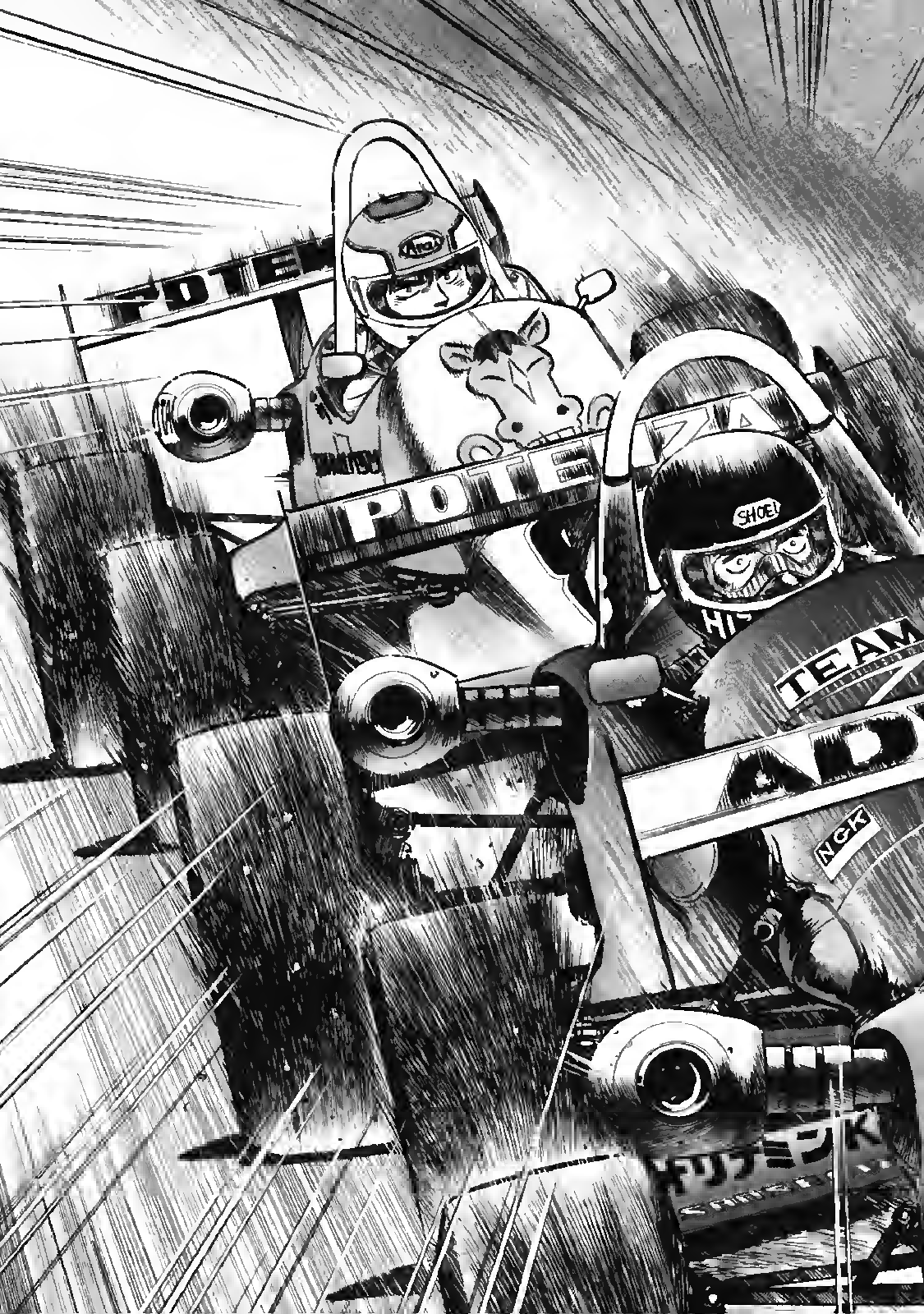


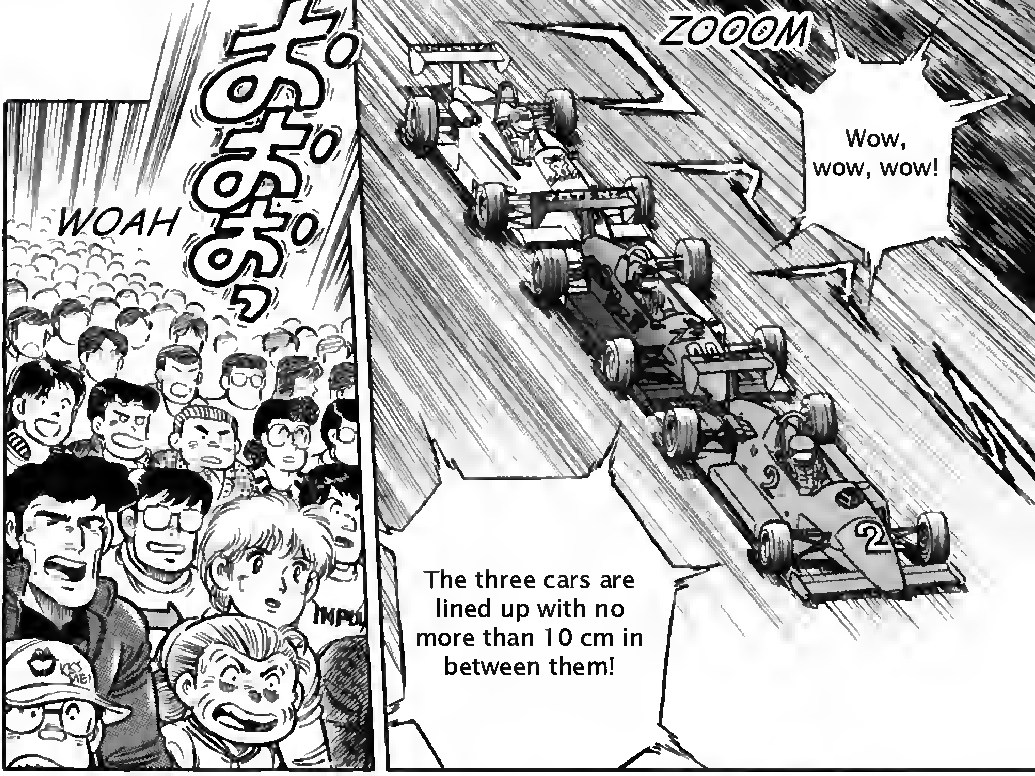
What!? No... It's...
Th-This is...!

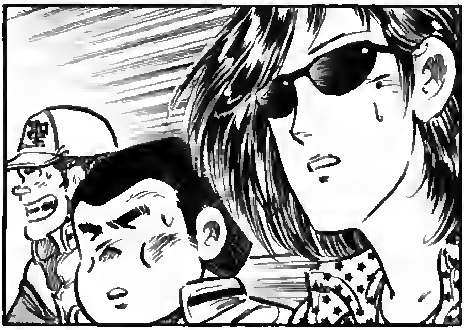
He's entered the slipstream!
Kazuto Hijiri moving into Udo's slipstream at last!
ADV
GOLF
2

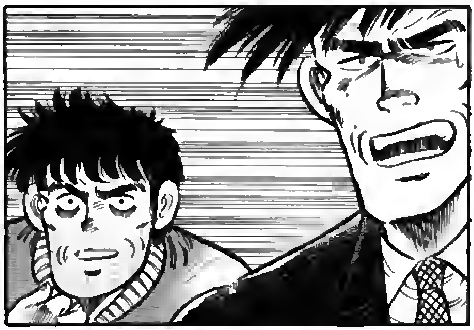

A... double slipstream!
SHOEI
NGK
GOLF

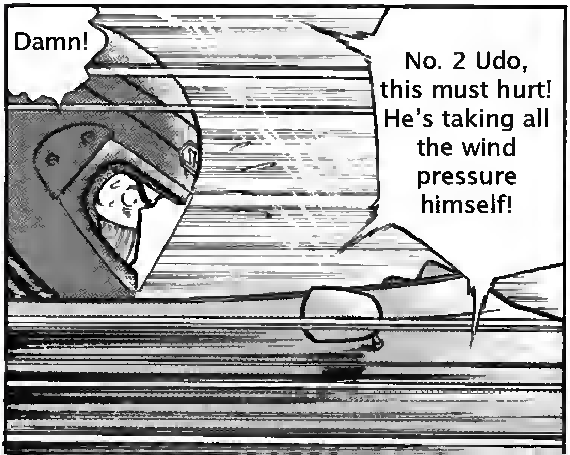

A... double slipstream!
SHE!
UDC
GOLF

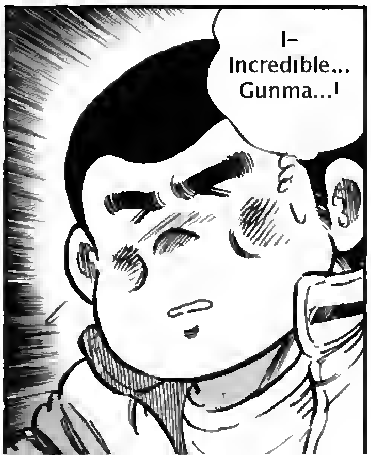

POTE
POTE
SHOEI
TEAM
NGK

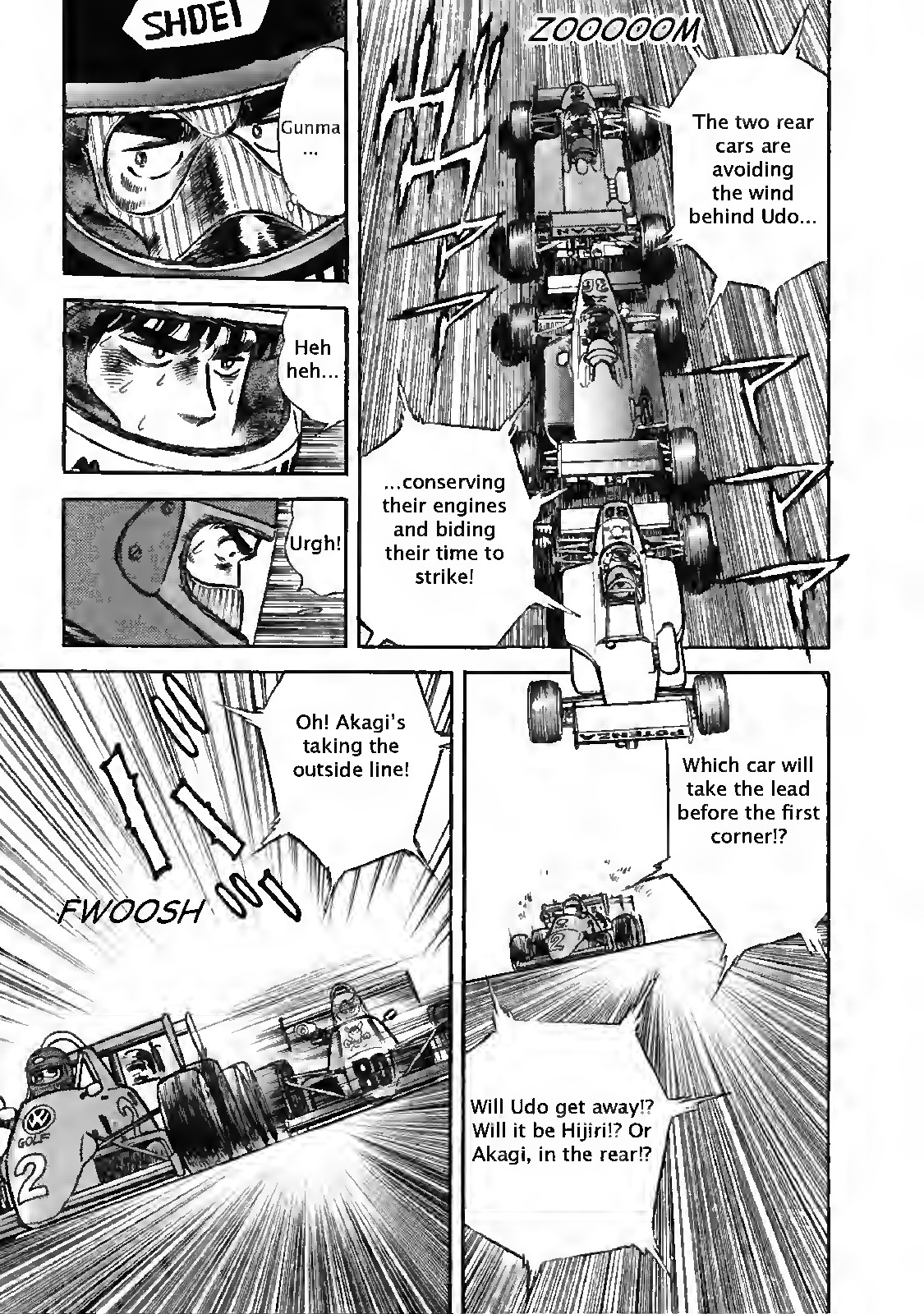

WOAH
ZOOOM
Wow, wow, wow!
The three cars are lined up with no more than 10 cm in between them!



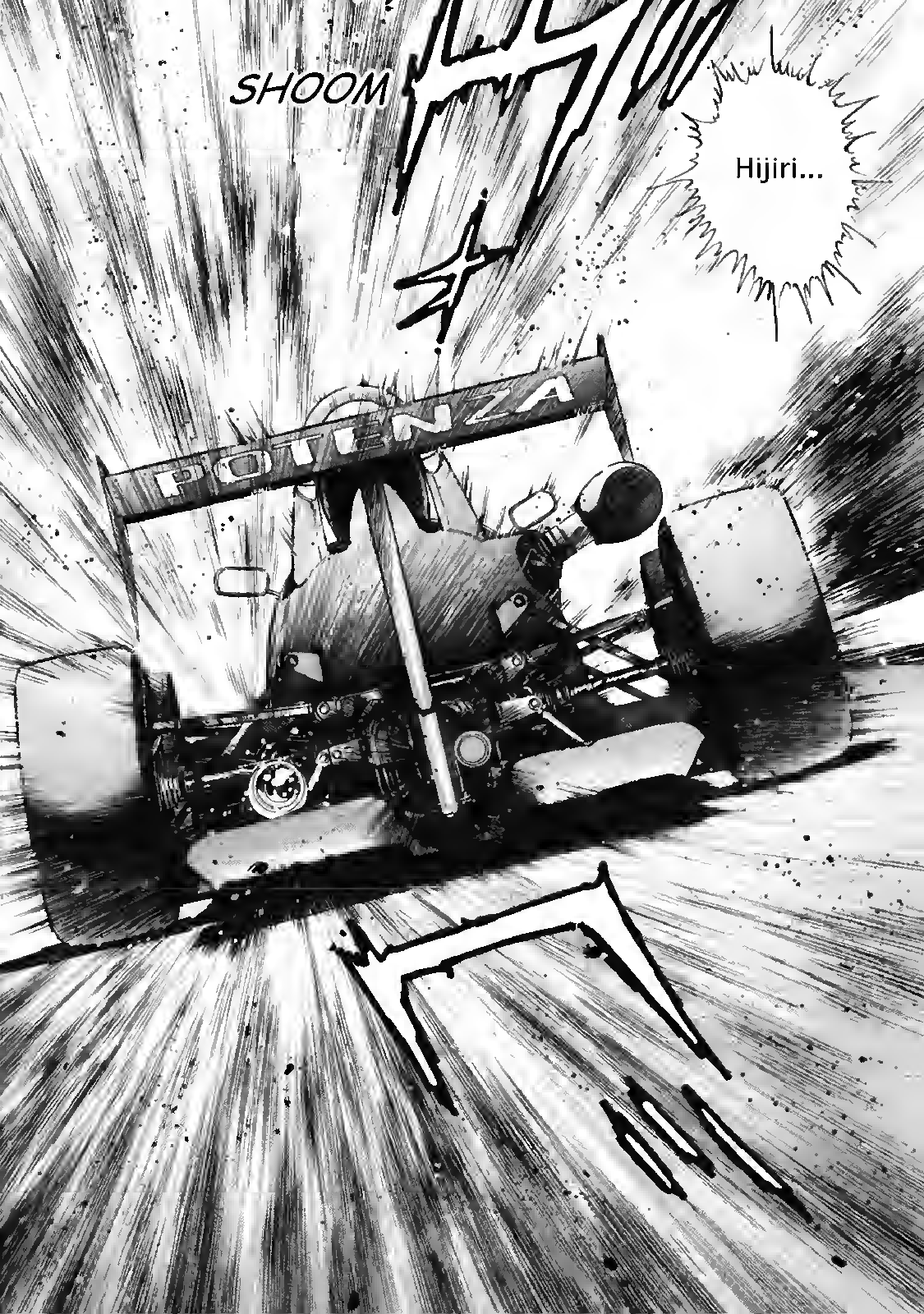



Damn!
No. 2 Udo, this must hurt! He's taking all the wind pressure himself!


I– Incredible... Gunma...!


SHDET
Gunma ...
Heh heh...
Urgh!
ZOOOOOM
The two rear cars are avoiding the wind behind Udo...
...conserving their engines and biding their time to strike!
Oh! Akagi's taking the outside line!
FWOOSH
Which car will take the lead before the first corner!?
Will Udo get away!? Will it be Hijiri!? Or Akagi, in the rear!?

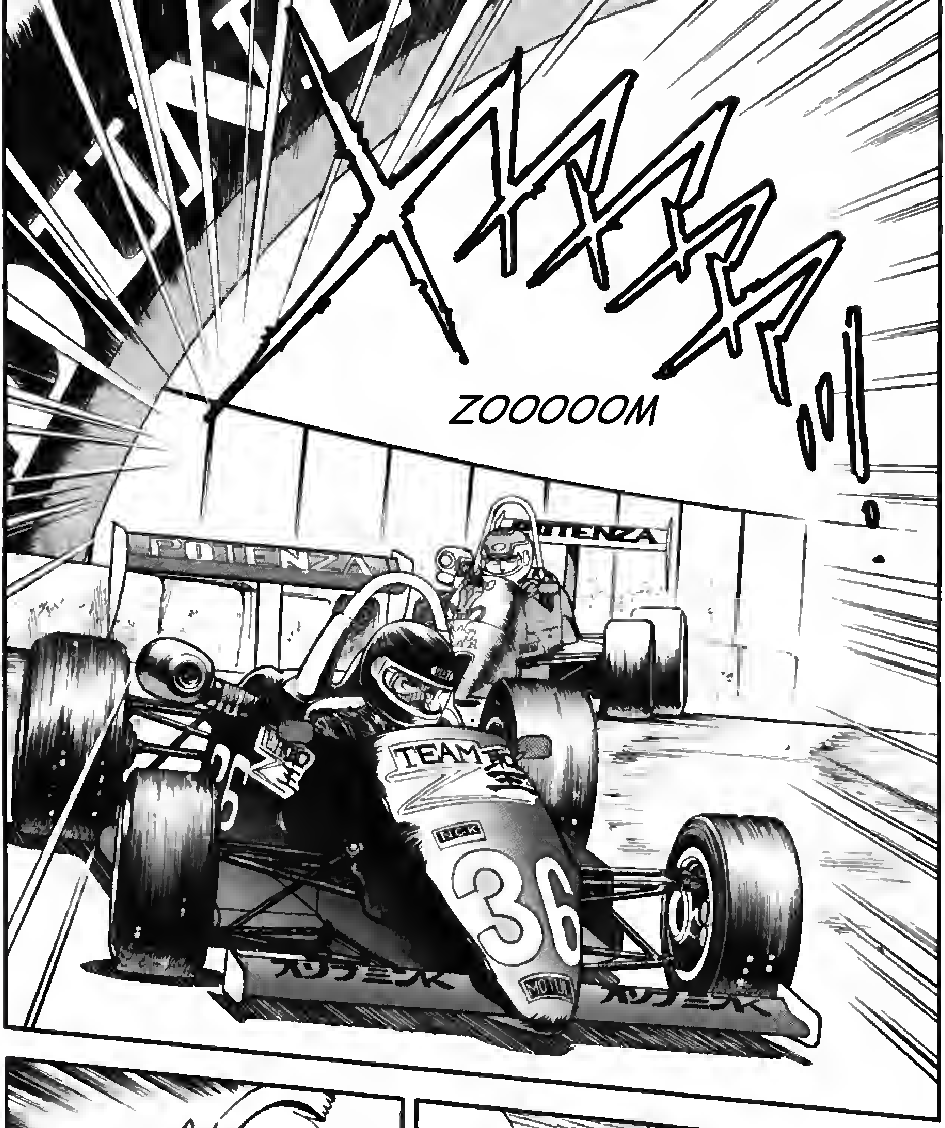
VROOM
Crap!
Ahhh!
ZOOM
BRRR
Hijiri's gone inside at the same time!
Hijiri has made it into third!
Aw!
You... bas- tard..
VRROOOM
OTENZA
OTENZA


SHOOM
Hijiri...
POTENZA

F

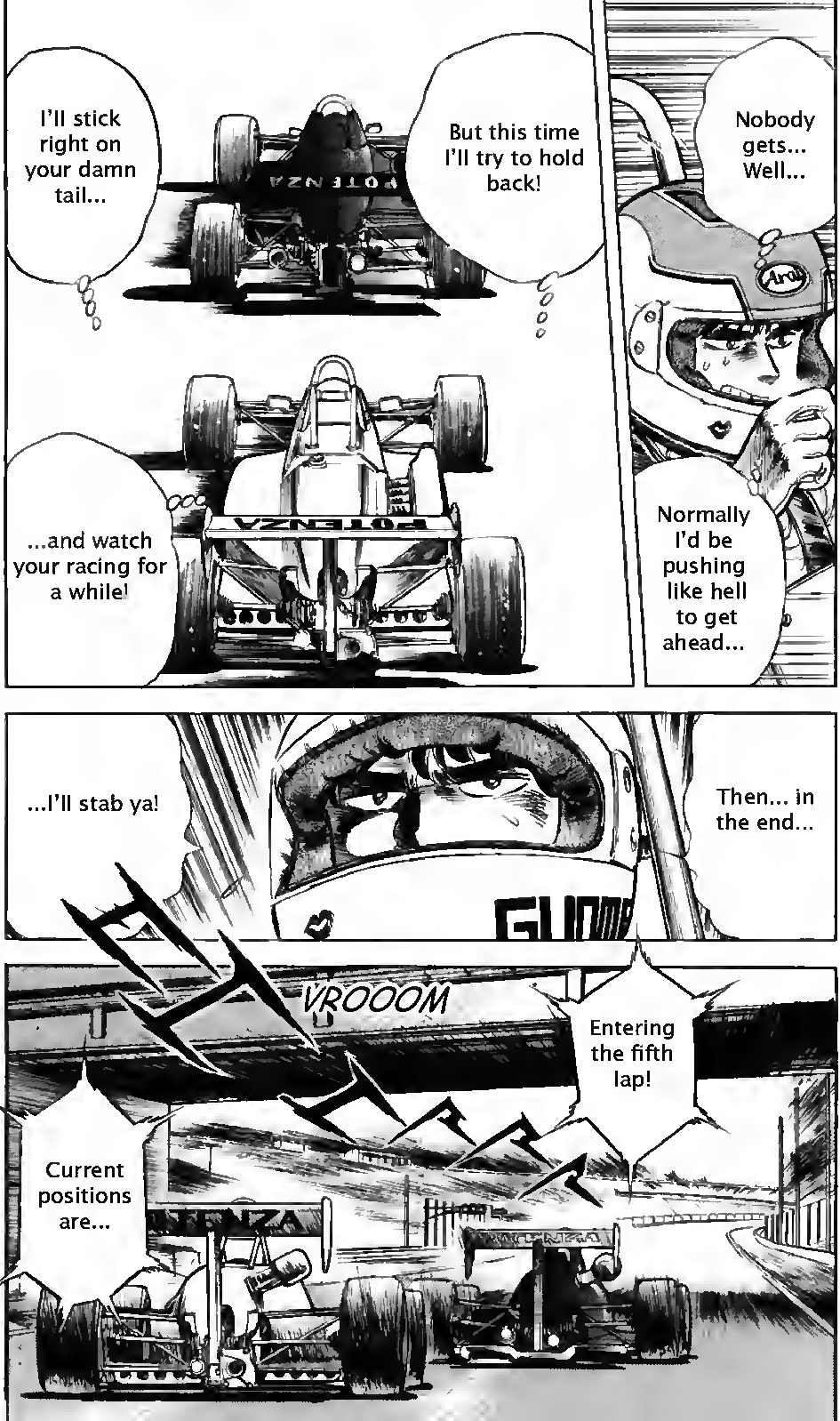
VOL. 7

Chapter 8: Final (4)

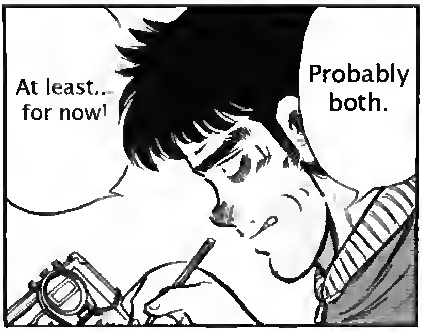

ZOOOOOM
POTENZA
TEAM
36

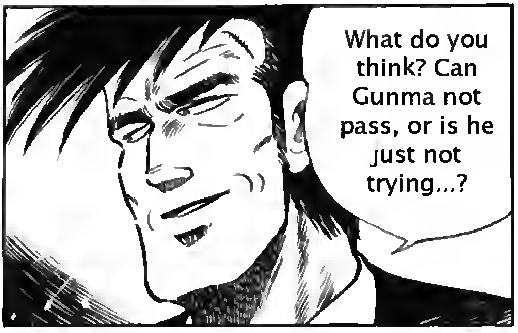
Tsk...
Arai
GUNMA

Good kid...
Heh heh... heh... Looks like Akagi is keeping on my tail as promised.
HIZR
VROOM


I'll stick right on your damn tail...
But this time I'll try to hold back!
...and watch your racing for a while!
Nobody gets... Well...
Normally I'd be pushing like hell to get ahead...
...I'll stab ya!
Then... in the end...
VROOOM
Entering the fifth lap!
Current positions are...

Fourth, No. 80 Gunma Akagi!
Third, No. 36 Kazuto Hijiri!
Second No. 6 Akihiko Kamiya!
First, No. 11 B. Scotte!
Tamo tsu
MUMBLE MUMBLE

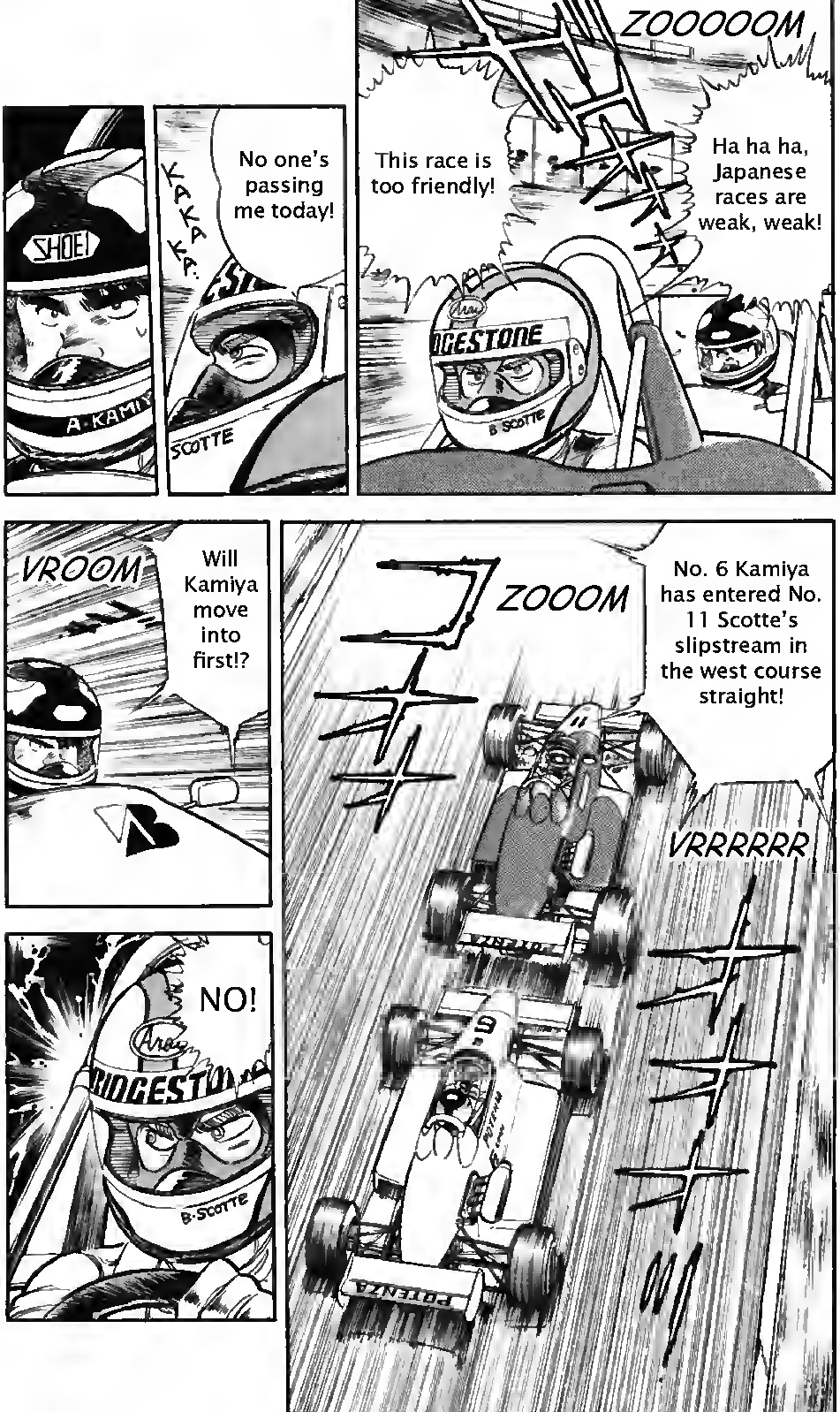

At least... for now!
Probably both.

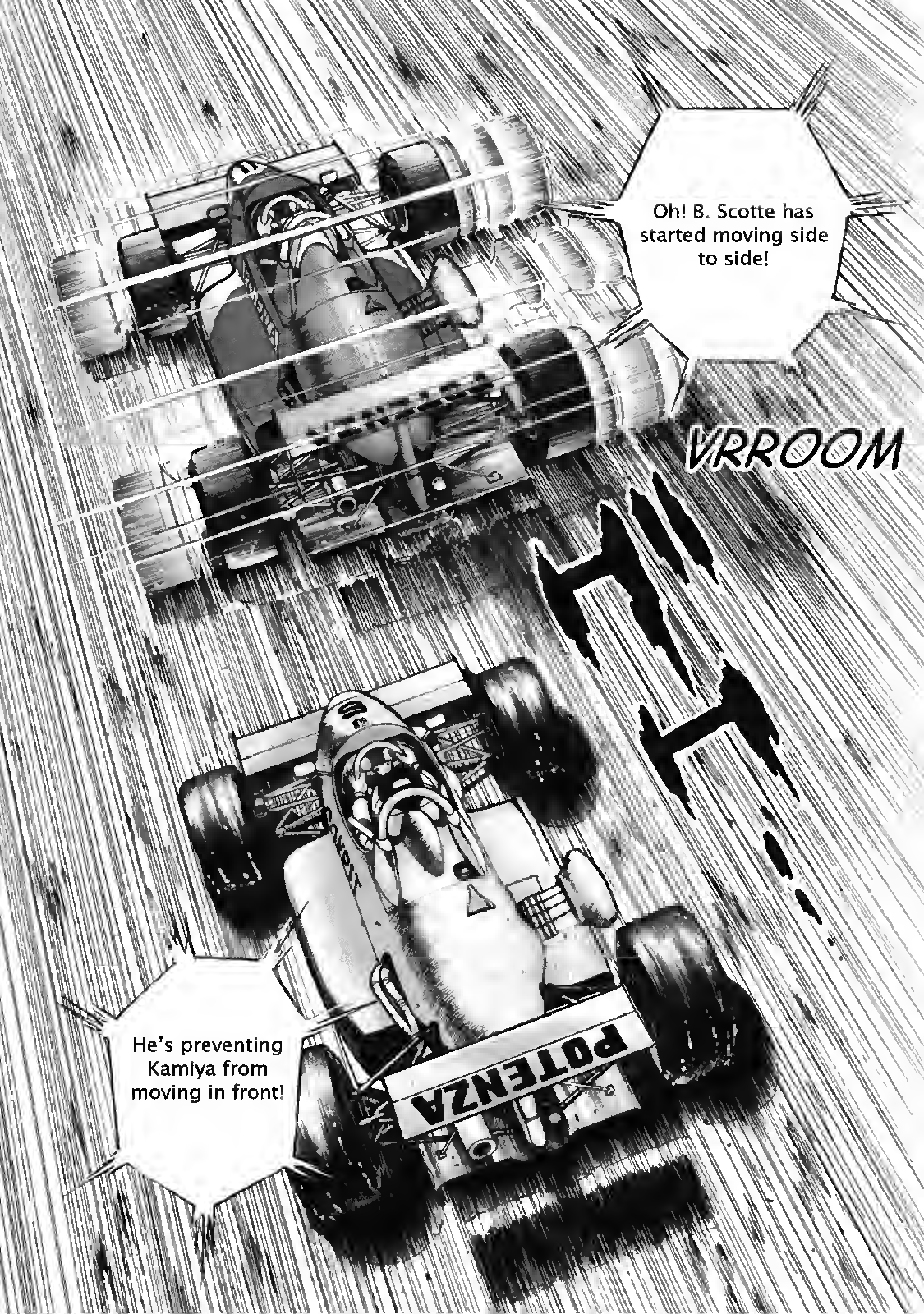

What do you think? Can Gunma not pass, or is he just not trying...?

...

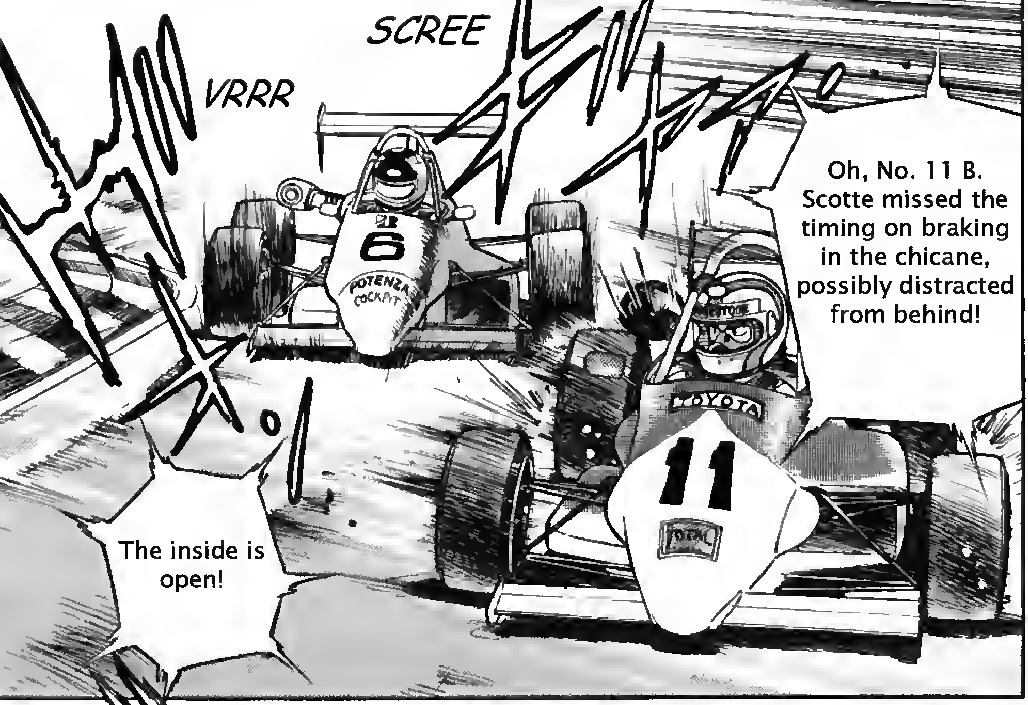
That's it, good!
SHOVE

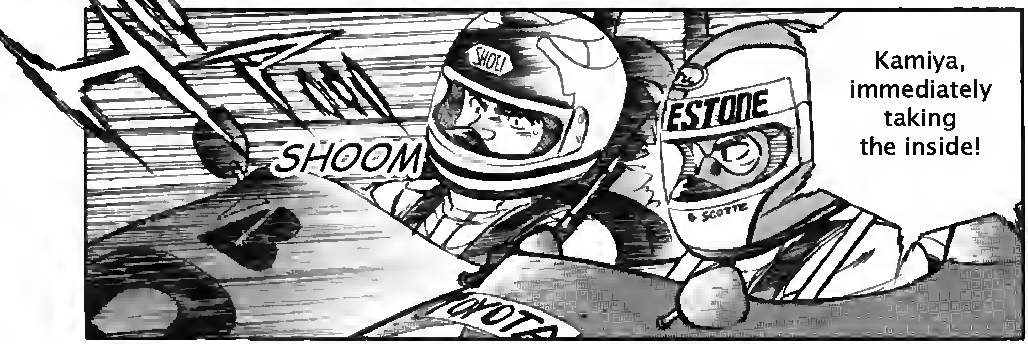
ZOOOOOM
The battle between first and second has heated up as well!
Kamiya is putting pressure on Scotte in first!
I've got to switch out the device in Tamotsu's pocket somehow...
Bridgestone
B·SCOTTE
SHOEI
A KAMIYA
BRAAAH
Both cars are waiting to the limit for the braking point!
POTENZA


ZOOOOOM
This race is too friendly!
Ha ha ha, Japanese races are weak, weak!
SHOEI
A KAMIYA
KA KA KA
No one's passing me today!
SCOTTE
VROOM
Will Kamiya move into first!?
ZOOOM
No. 6 Kamiya has entered No. 11 Scotte's slipstream in the west course straight!
VRRRRRR
NO!
B·Scotte


Oh! B. Scotte has started moving side to side!
VRROOM
He's preventing Kamiya from moving in front!
POTENZA

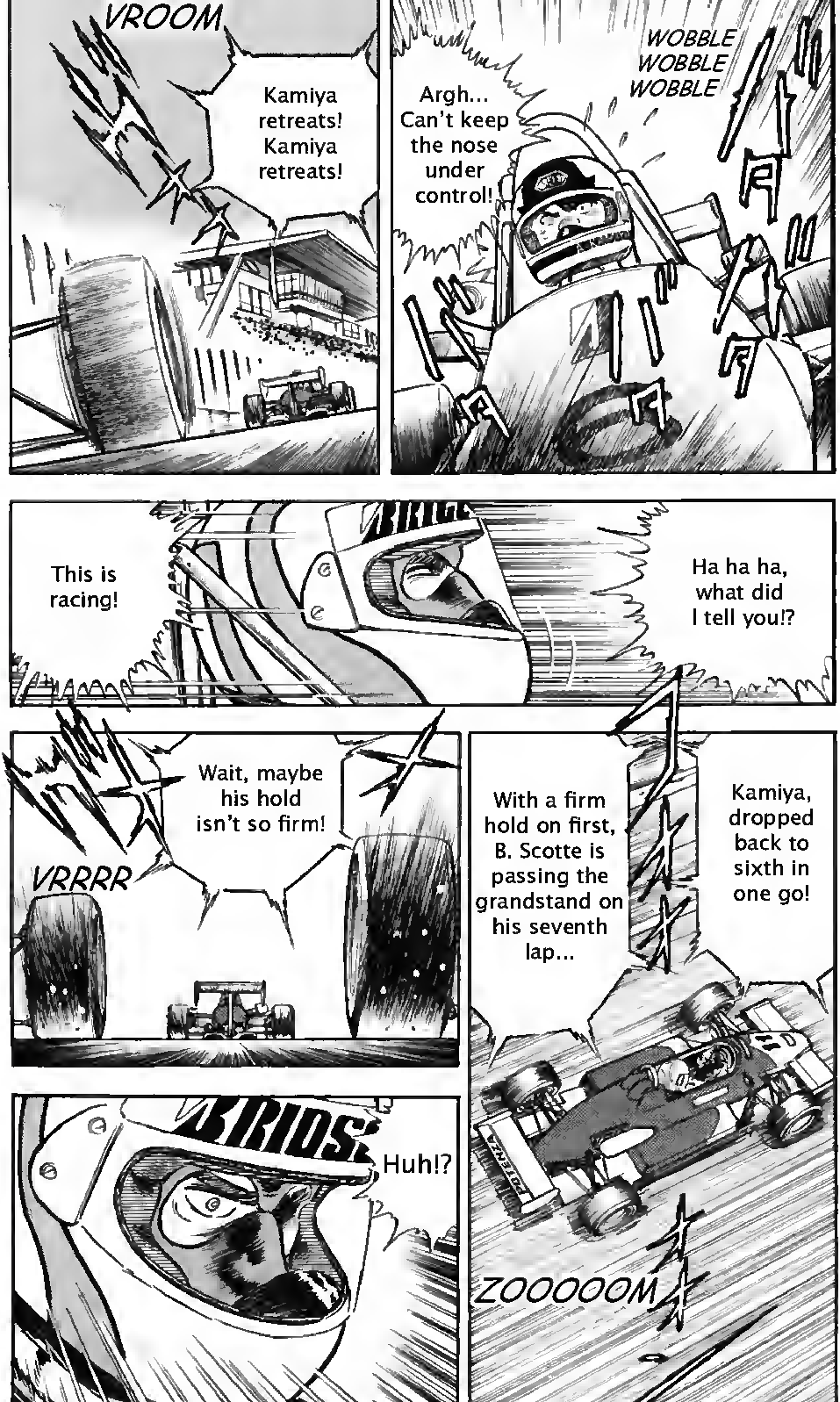
This is racing!
HA HA HA !!
Isn't this unfair blocking!?
Hey, wh-what!?
ZOOOOOM
This will be a problem! Suzuka has a special rule that cars can't change their path on straights except when passing!
B. Scotte's actions now may have broken that rule!
NONO! BOY!
Akihiko Kamiya is continuing his attack!
ZOOOOOM

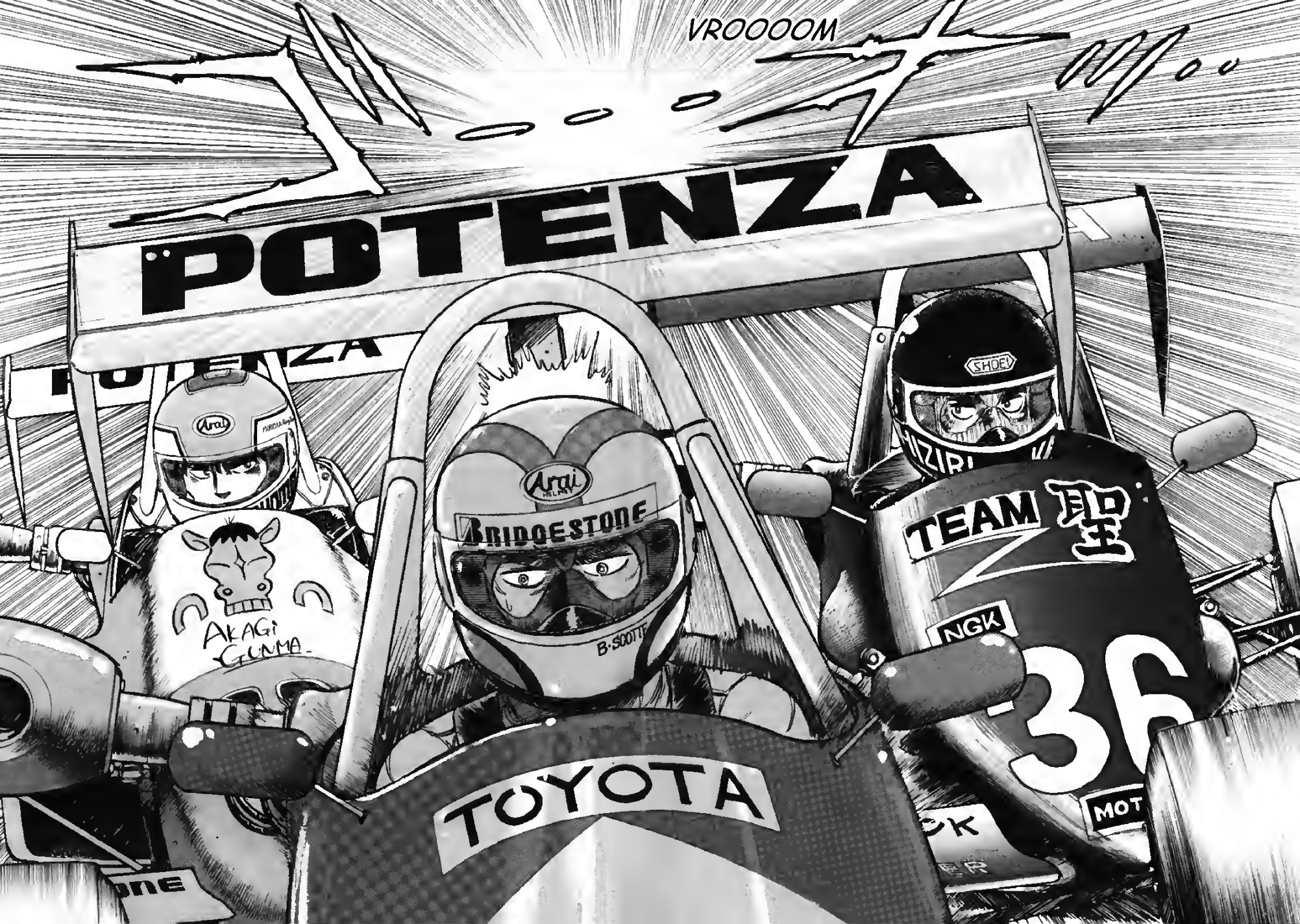

SCREE
VRRR
Oh, No. 11 B. Scotte missed the timing on braking in the chicane, possibly distracted from behind!
The inside is open!
TOYOTA
11
6
POTENZA
COCKPIT

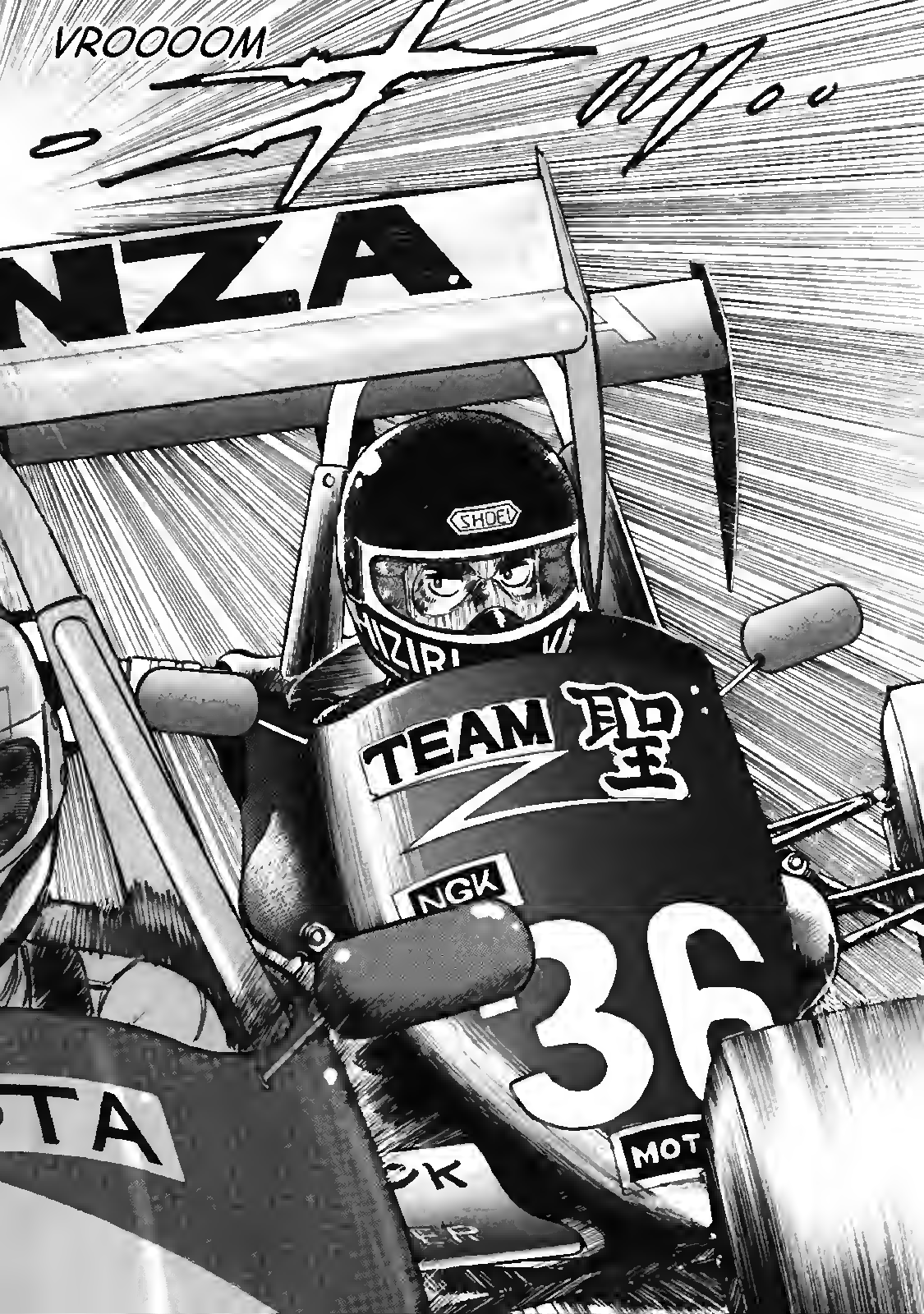

SHOOM
Kamiya, immediately taking the inside!
ESTONE
TOYOTA

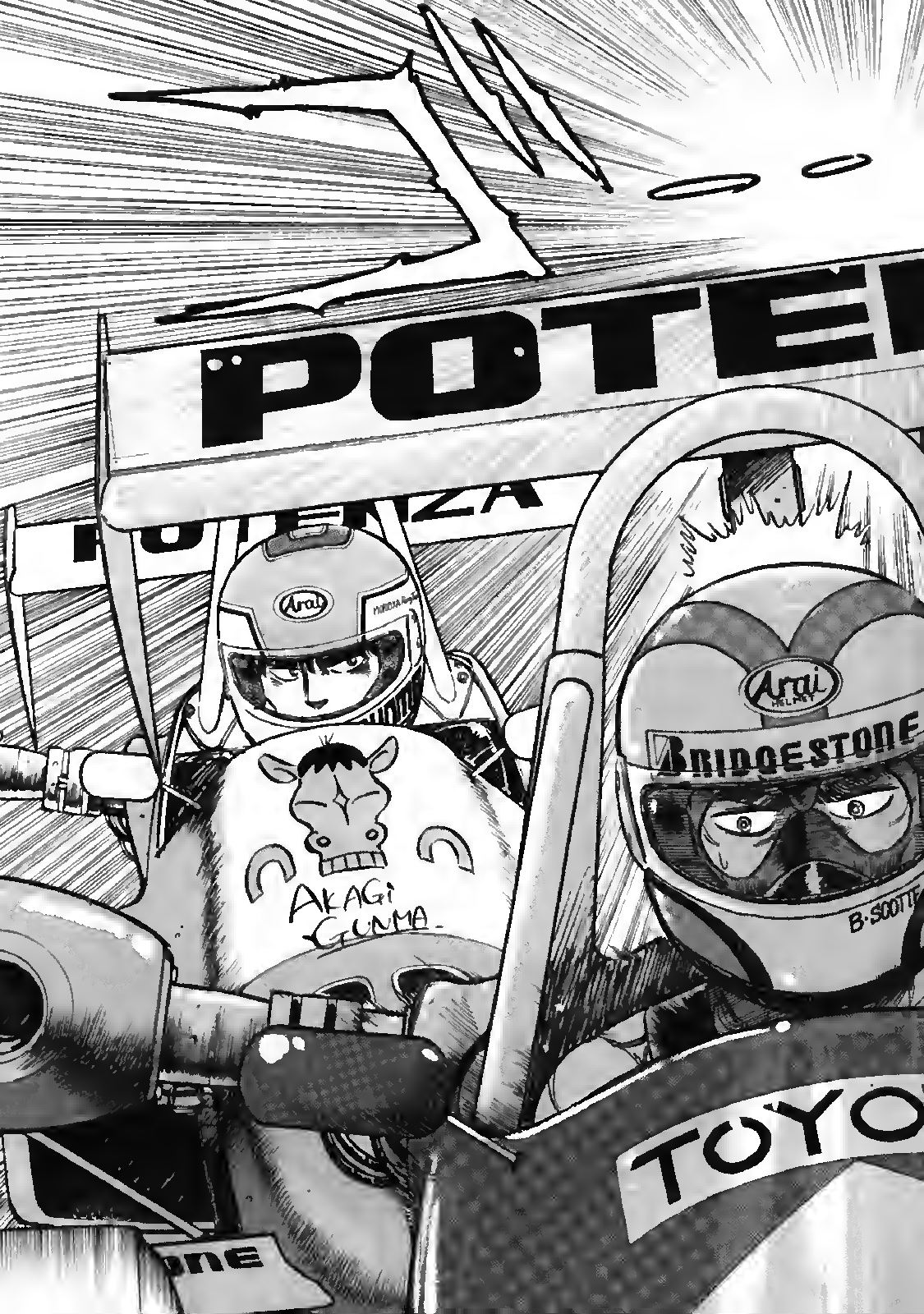
CRACK
What!?
Don't piss me off!

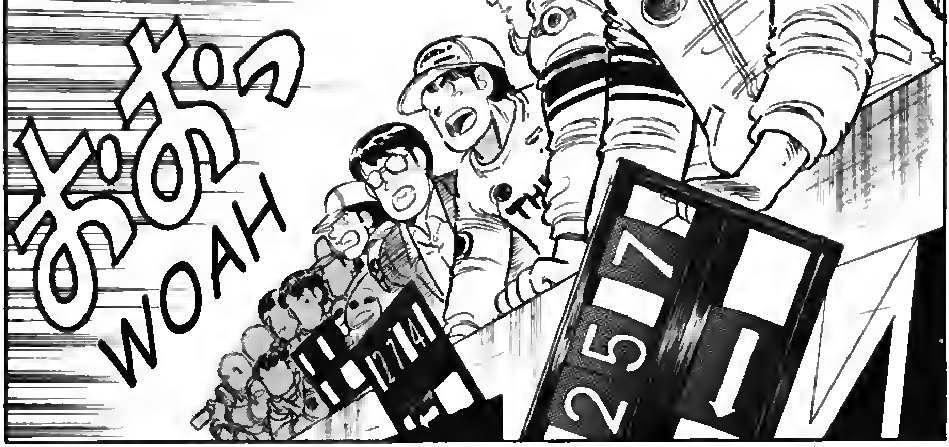
POTENZA
SCREECH
ガガガ
POTENZA
6
POTENZA
COCKPIT
11
TOYOTA
What a rough race! B. Scotte has rammed into Kamiya's car!


VROOM
Kamiya retreats! Kamiya retreats!
WOBBLE WOBBLE WOBBLE
Argh... Can't keep the nose under control!
This is racing!
Ha ha ha, what did I tell you!?
Wait, maybe his hold isn't so firm!
VRRRR
With a firm hold on first, B. Scotte is passing the grandstand on his seventh lap...
Kamiya, dropped back to sixth in one go!
ZOOOOOM
Huh!?


VROOOOM
POTENZA
POTENZA
Arai
BRIDGESTONE
B.SCOTT
AKAGI
GUNMA
SHOEI
TEAM
NGK
36
TOYOTA

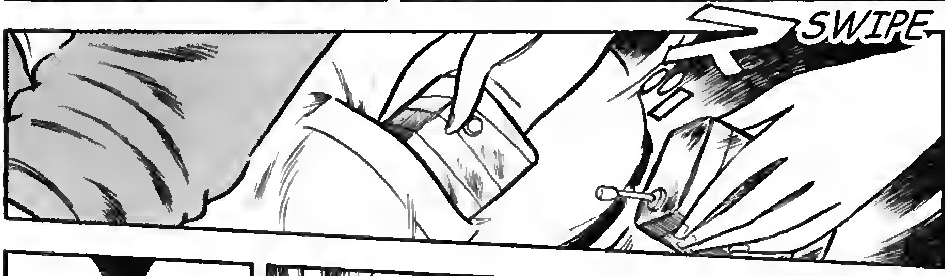

VROOOOM
NZA
SHOEI
TEAM
NGK
36
MOT
TA


POTE
Arai
AKAGI
GUNMA
Arai
HELMET
BRIDGESTONE
TOYO


WOAH

Now!

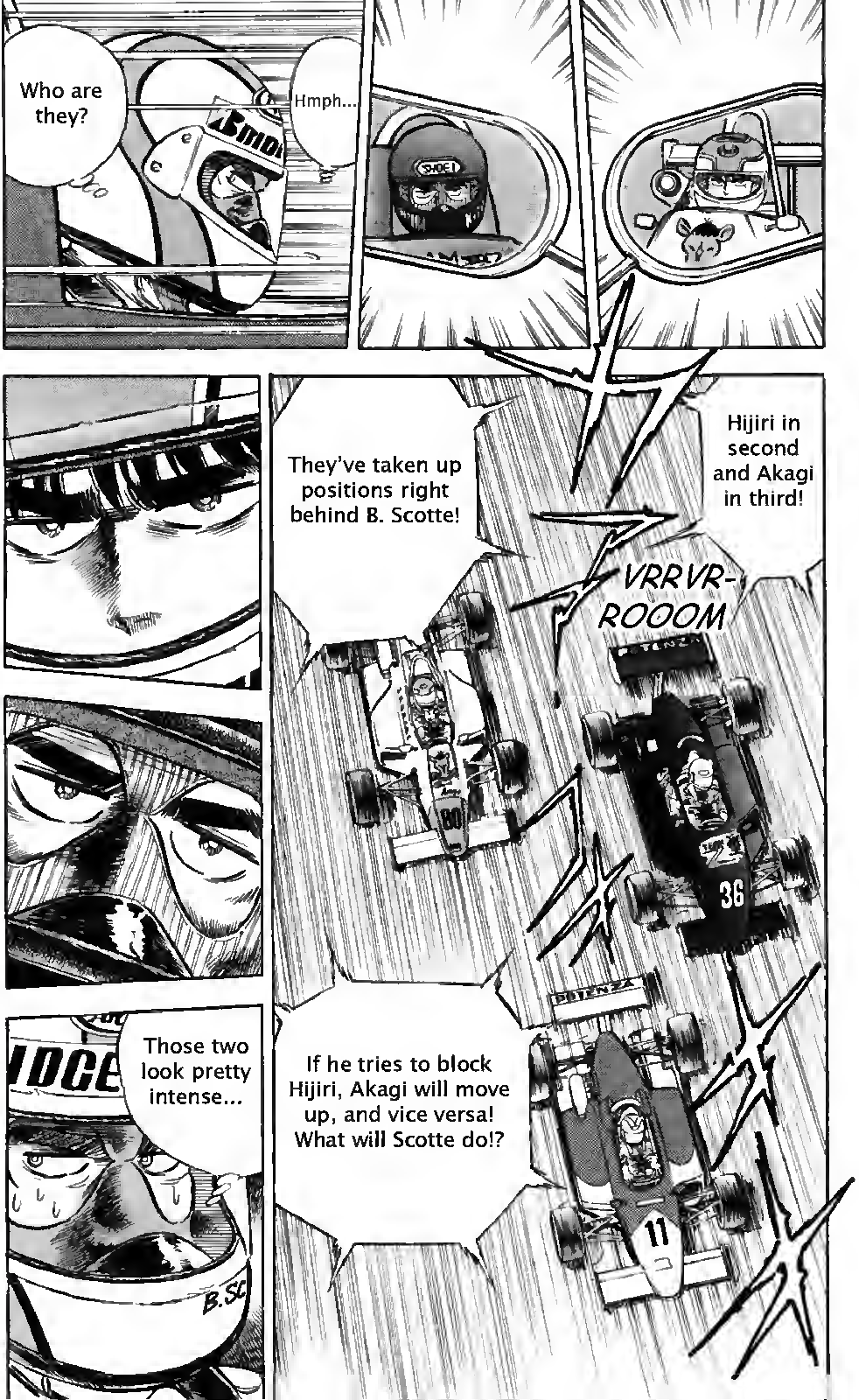
Wow...


SWIPE

They are.
Y-Yeah ...

Those two are amazing.

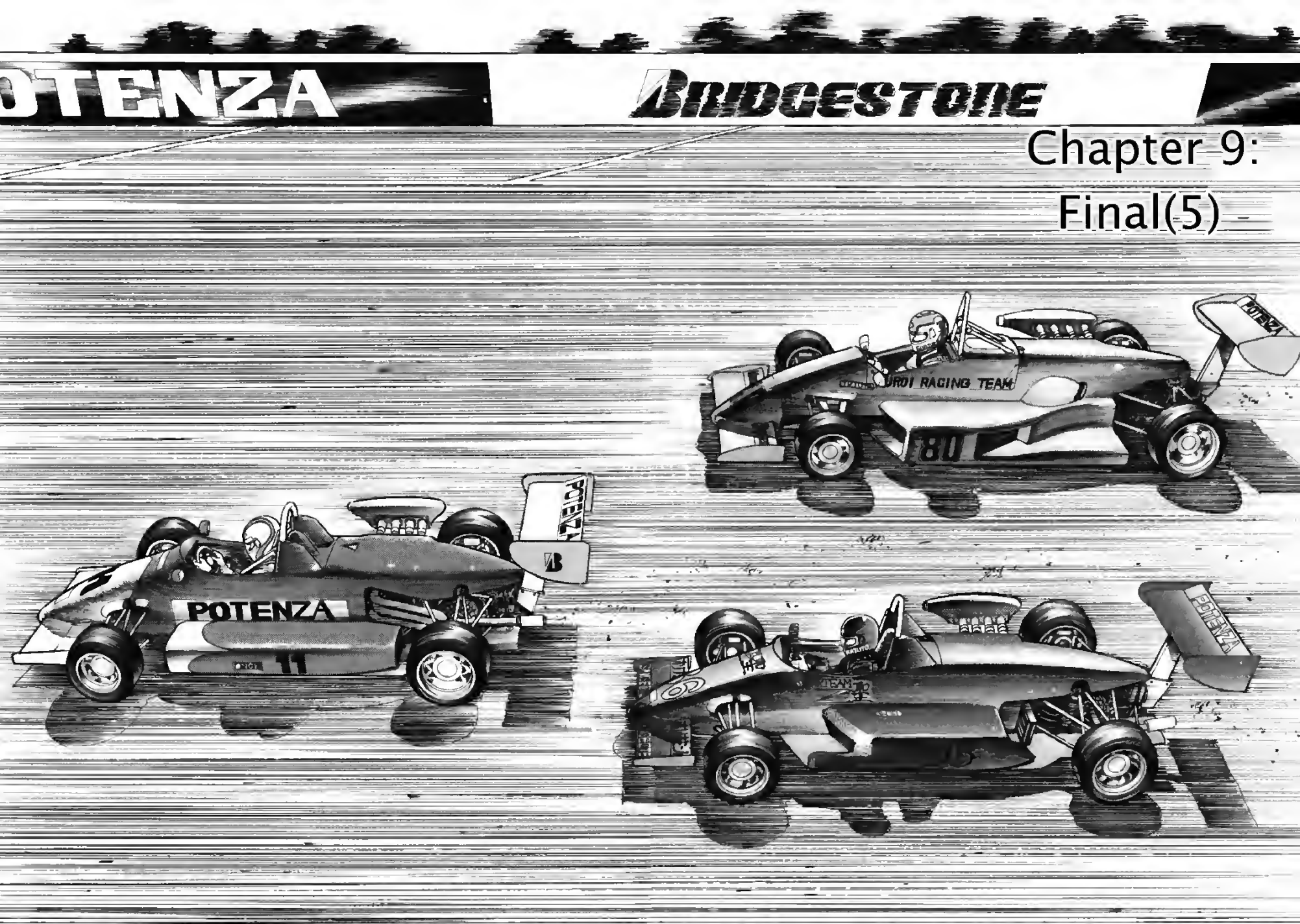
!?
Hey, don't push!

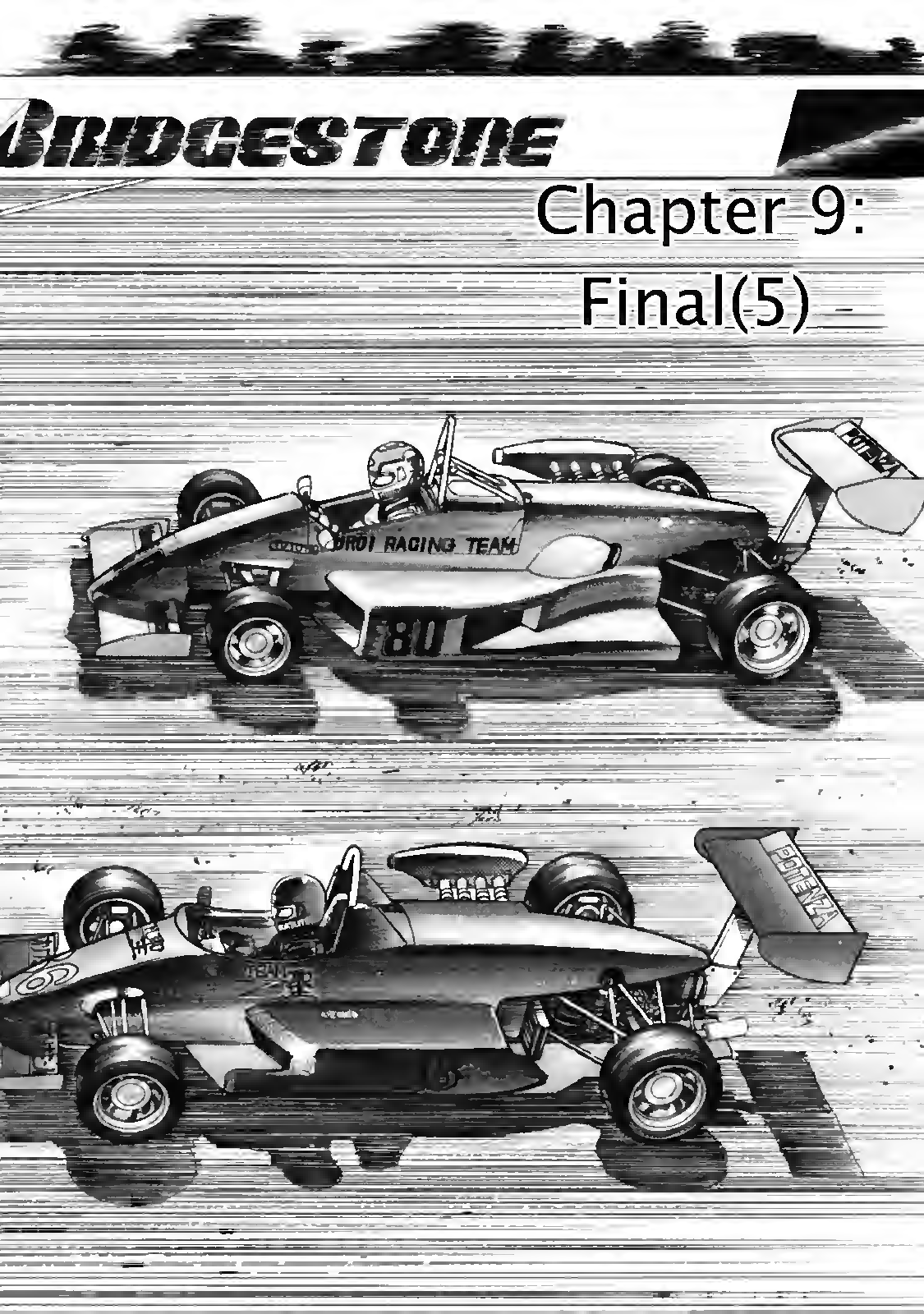

Who are they?
Hmph...
They've taken up positions right behind B. Scotte!
Hijiri in second and Akagi in third!
VRRVR-ROOOM
If he tries to block Hijiri, Akagi will move up, and vice versa! What will Scotte do!?
Those two look pretty intense...

ZOOOOOM
POTENZA
POTENZA
POTENZA

F

VOL.7

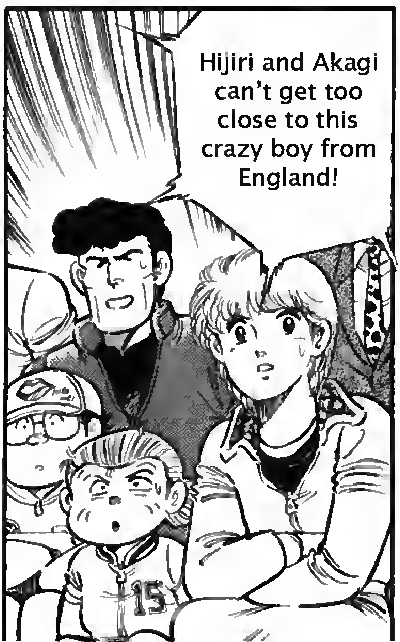

POTENZA
BRIDGESTONE
Chapter 9:
Final(5)
POTENZA
URDI RACING TEAM
80
POTENZA
11
POTENZA

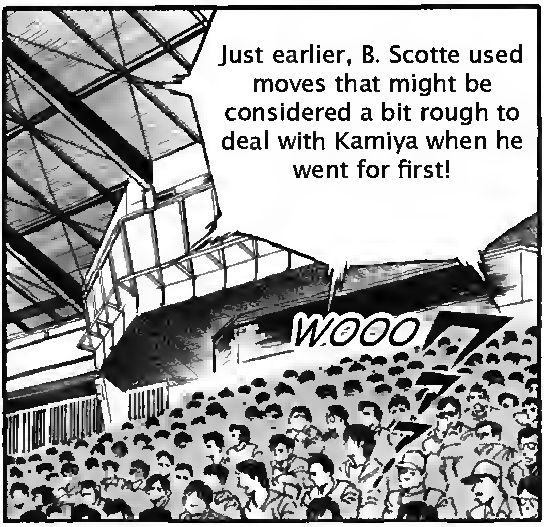

BRIDGESTONE
Chapter 9:
Final(5)
BRDI RACING TEAM
80
POTENZA
POTENZA

OTENZA
POTENZA
11

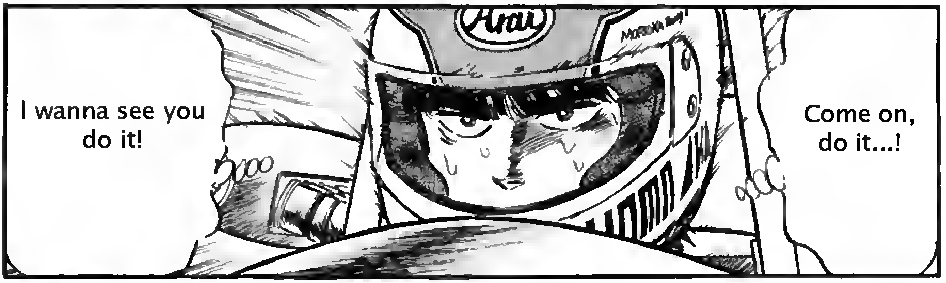
In the seventh lap, No. 36 Hijiri in second and No. 80 Akagi in third have moved in on No. 11 B. Scotte in first!
B·SCOTTE
...all three racers have entered the first corner!
With the two cars on either side behind B. Scotte...
VROOM
ZOOM
POTENZA

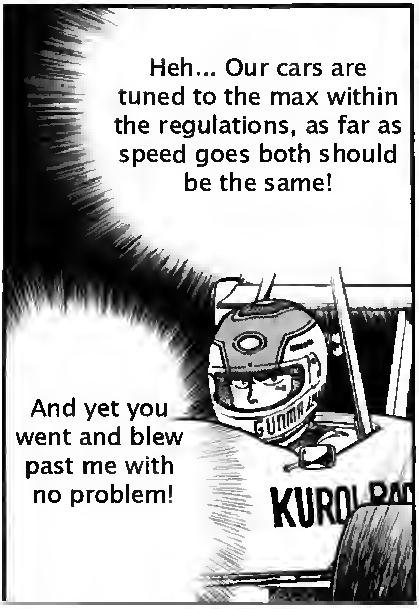
HA HA HA
I won't lose in a weak Japanese race!
B·SCOTTE
And B. Scotte shows his skill!
36
BRRR
Making his tail slide slightly, he prevents the others from taking the inside or outside!

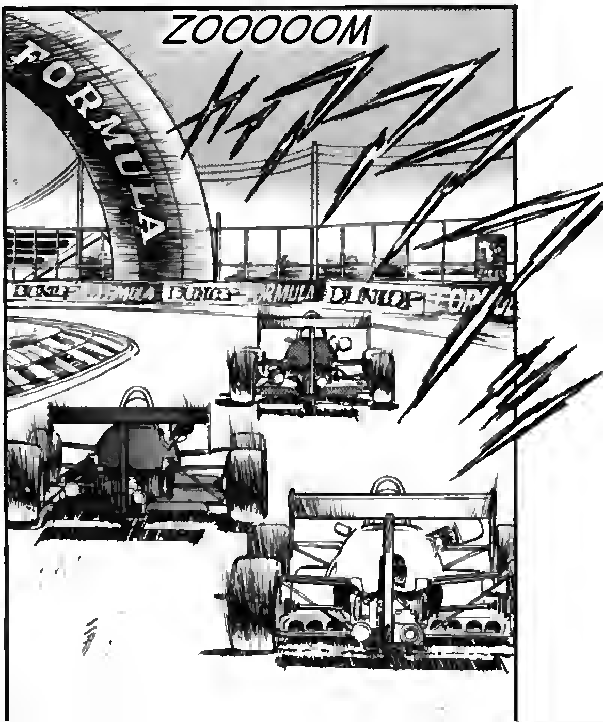

Hijiri and Akagi can't get too close to this crazy boy from England!
15


Just earlier, B. Scotte used moves that might be considered a bit rough to deal with Kamiya when he went for first!
WOOO

SHOOM
Like how you overtook me from behind during practice!
Go on, Hijiri... Hurry up and pass that British jerk!
SHOE!
HIJIRI
TENZA
GUNMA


I wanna see you do it!
Come on, do it...!
Arai

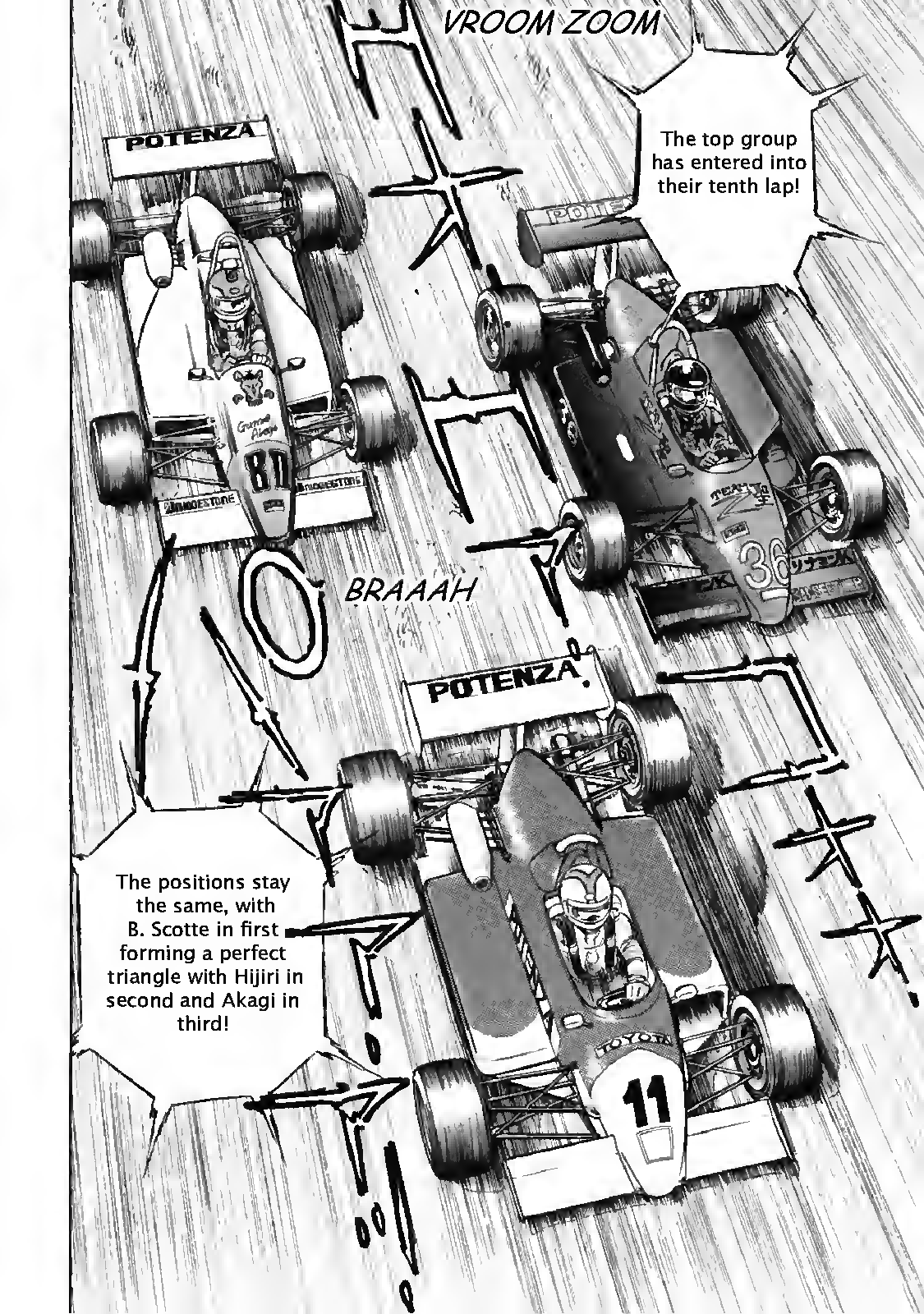

Heh... Our cars are tuned to the max within the regulations, as far as speed goes both should be the same!
And yet you went and blew past me with no problem!
GUNMA
KUROI RAC

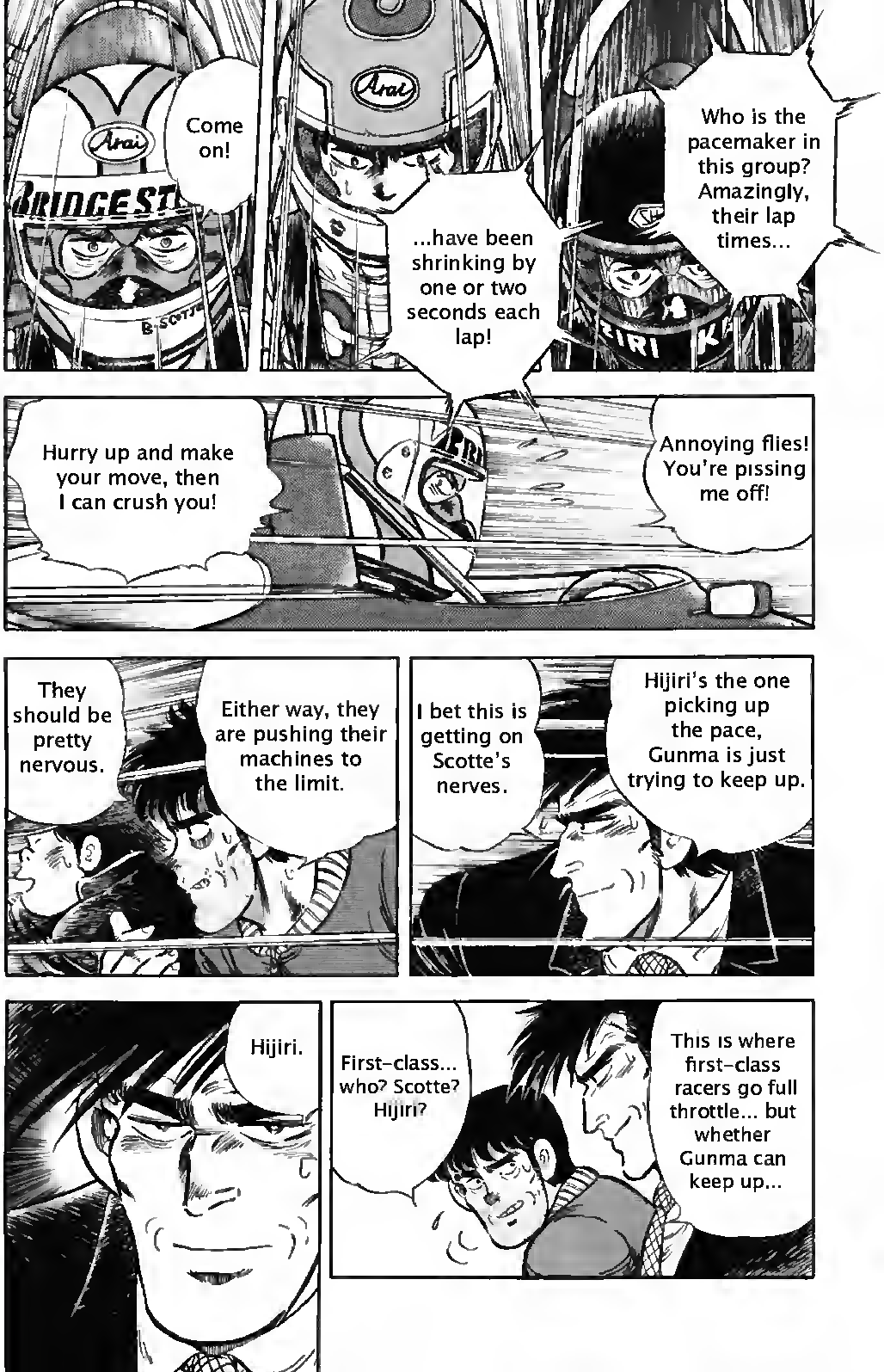

ZOOOOOM
FORMULA
DUNLOP

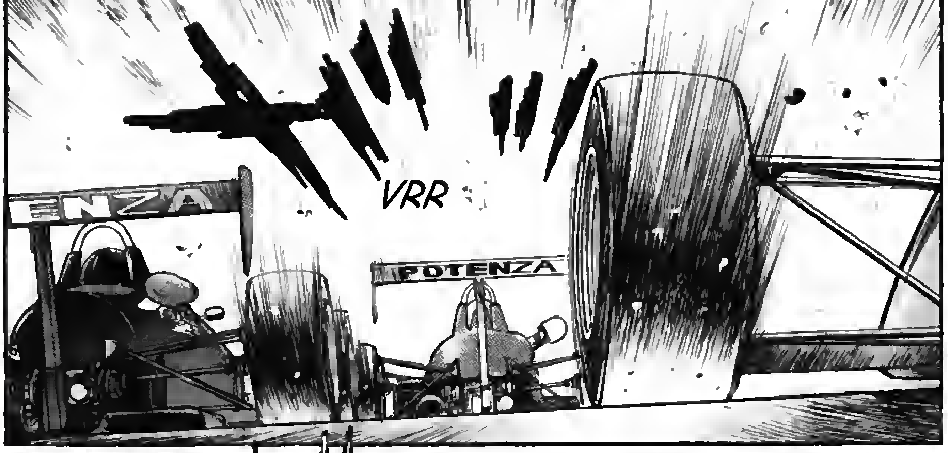
VROOM
Was it your line? Braking? Or was it shifting gears!?
What's your secret!?
Come on, show me, Hijiri!
ZOOM
VROOOOM

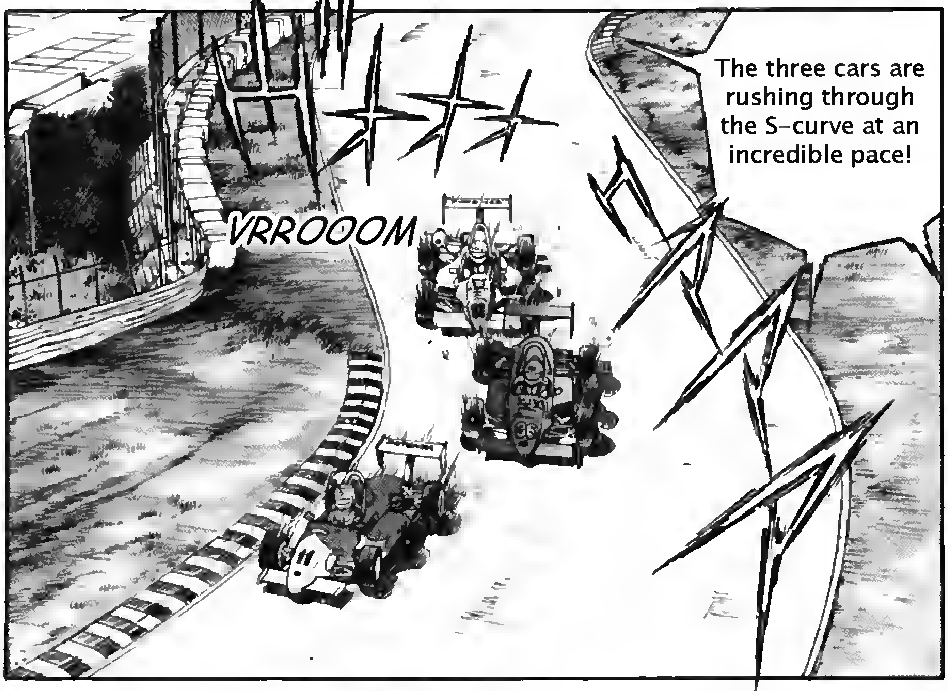
...makes me more sensitive to the engine's singing.
That's fine, if anything, this just...
My eyes are getting worse...
Now I'll teach you how to overcome yourself.
Is Akagi following...?
Right, he's there. Good!
Hey Goro, you're here...
Huh?
Ah!
Grr...
Heh... What, you want an apology...?
Until now, Goro was always in last place...
I... I've never been so nervous about giving signs before!

I've given up on being a driver, but I can't give up on racing... So I became a race photographer ...
Heh heh heh... Mr. Kuroi, I made my choice.
Since when were you a member of the press?
So I'm going to follow him to the end, using this camera to keep an eye on him.
He made me give up on my dream of being a driver.
A race photographer who only shoots Gunma Akagi!
If he fails, then so will I...
If he succeeds, then so will I...
No, no, it's more like the subtle revenge of a man whose dreams were shattered, ha ha ha.
So what, you're going to bet your life on him?


VROOM ZOOM
The top group has entered into their tenth lap!
POTENZA
BRAAAH
POTENZA
The positions stay the same, with B. Scotte in first forming a perfect triangle with Hijiri in second and Akagi in third!
TOYOTA
11


Arai
BRIDGESTONE
Come on!
...have been shrinking by one or two seconds each lap!
Who is the pacemaker in this group? Amazingly, their lap times...
Hurry up and make your move, then I can crush you!
Annoying flies! You're pissing me off!
They should be pretty nervous.
Either way, they are pushing their machines to the limit.
I bet this is getting on Scotte's nerves.
Hijiri's the one picking up the pace, Gunma is just trying to keep up.
Hijiri.
First-class... who? Scotte? Hijiri?
This is where first-class racers go full throttle... but whether Gunma can keep up...

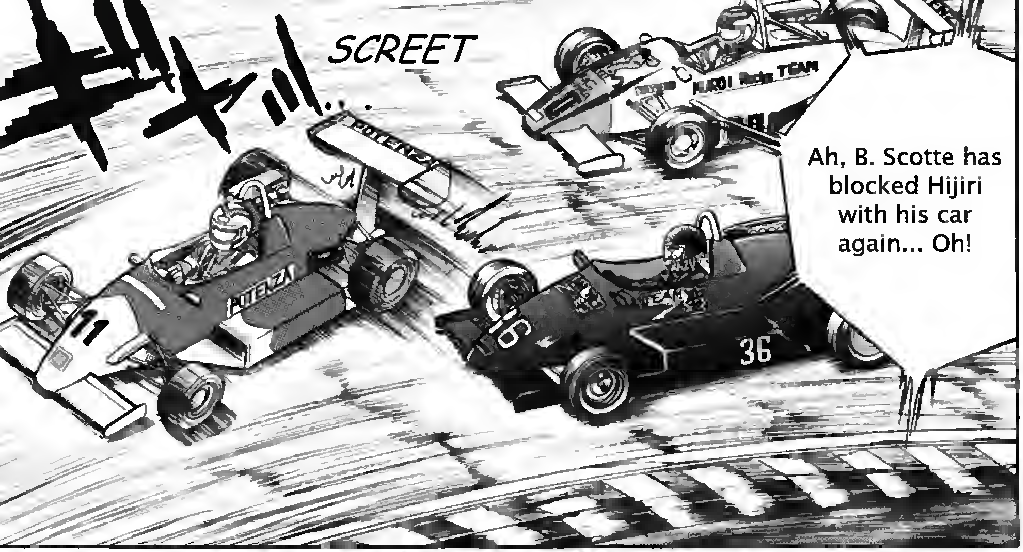

VRR
ENZA
POTENZA

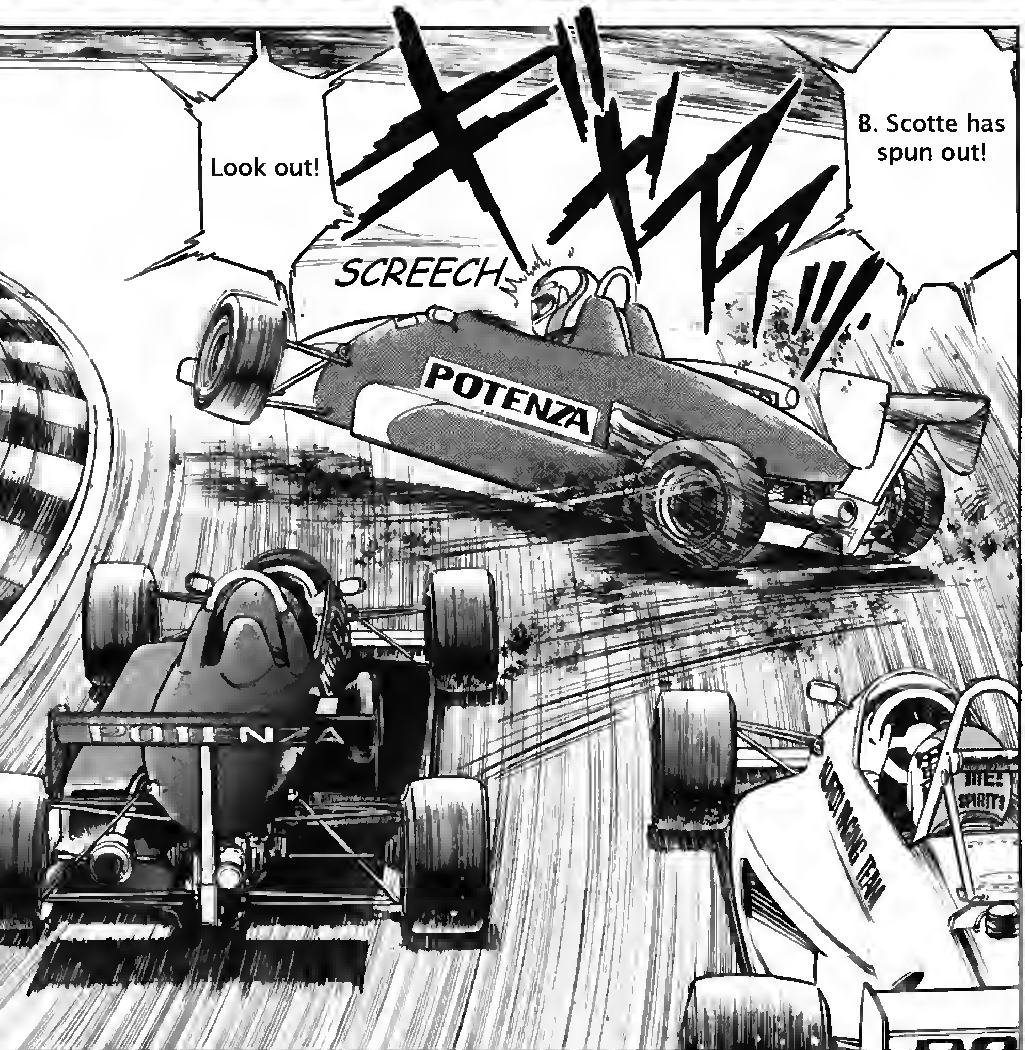

VRROOOM
The three cars are rushing through the S-curve at an incredible pace!

FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP

VRROOM
Reverse bank!
POTENZA
POTENZA
BRR
VRR
Degner curve!
POTENZA
POTENZA
VROOM
None of them are giving up an inch!

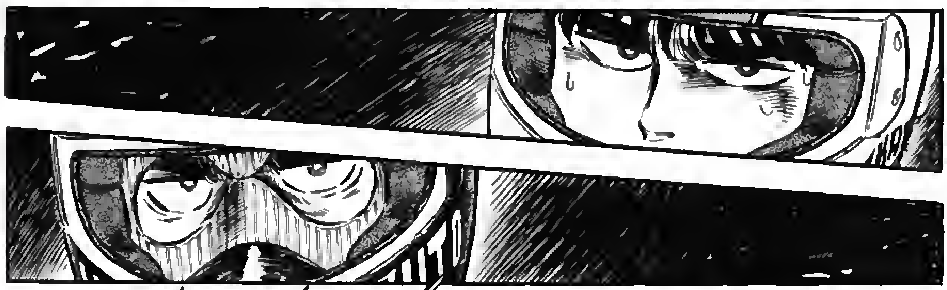
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
GUNMA
FWAP
HAZU
FWAP
B·SCOTTE
ZOOOOOM
Going through the hairpin to the spoon!
POTENZA
11
Okay, come on!
Heh heh, I should get a good shot of the spoon exit from this west course straight.
NO!!
RIDGEGTO..
B·SCOTTE
Will he pass!?
ZOOOM
Oh, Hijiri has moved up at the spoon exit!

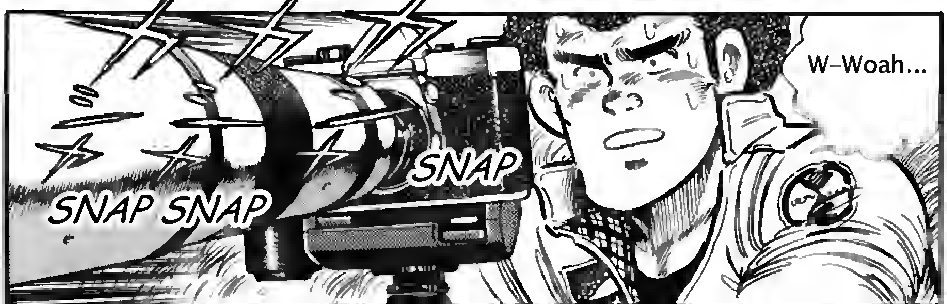

SCREET
POTENZA
11
16
36
Ah, B. Scotte has blocked Hijiri with his car again... Oh!


Look out!
SCREECH
B. Scotte has spun out!
POTENZA
POTENZA

WHHAAAM
TOYOTA
TEAM
36
DENSO

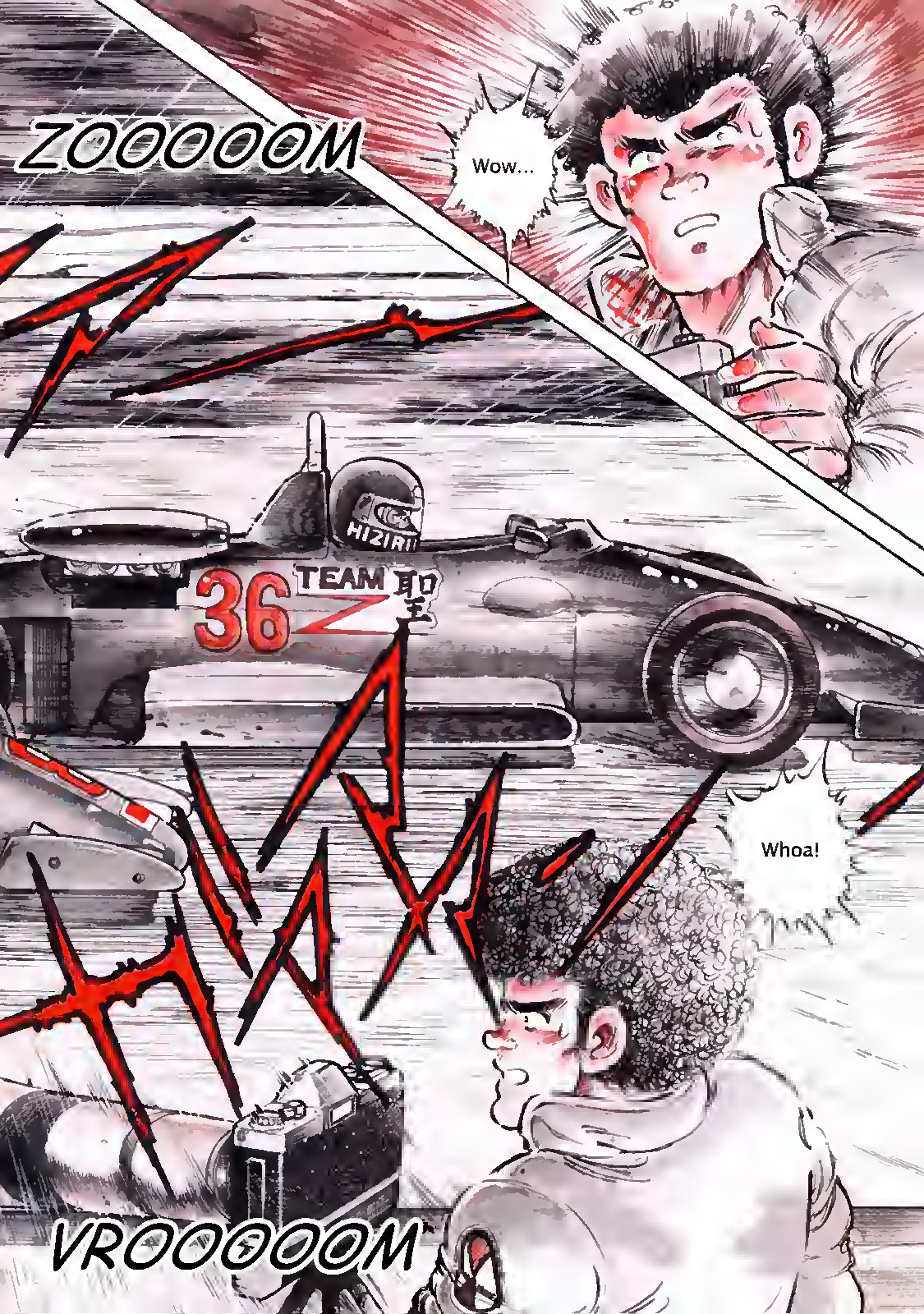
No. 11 B. Scotte couldn't keep up with this speed! He has spun out of the course!
CRAASH
VRR
VRR
36
80

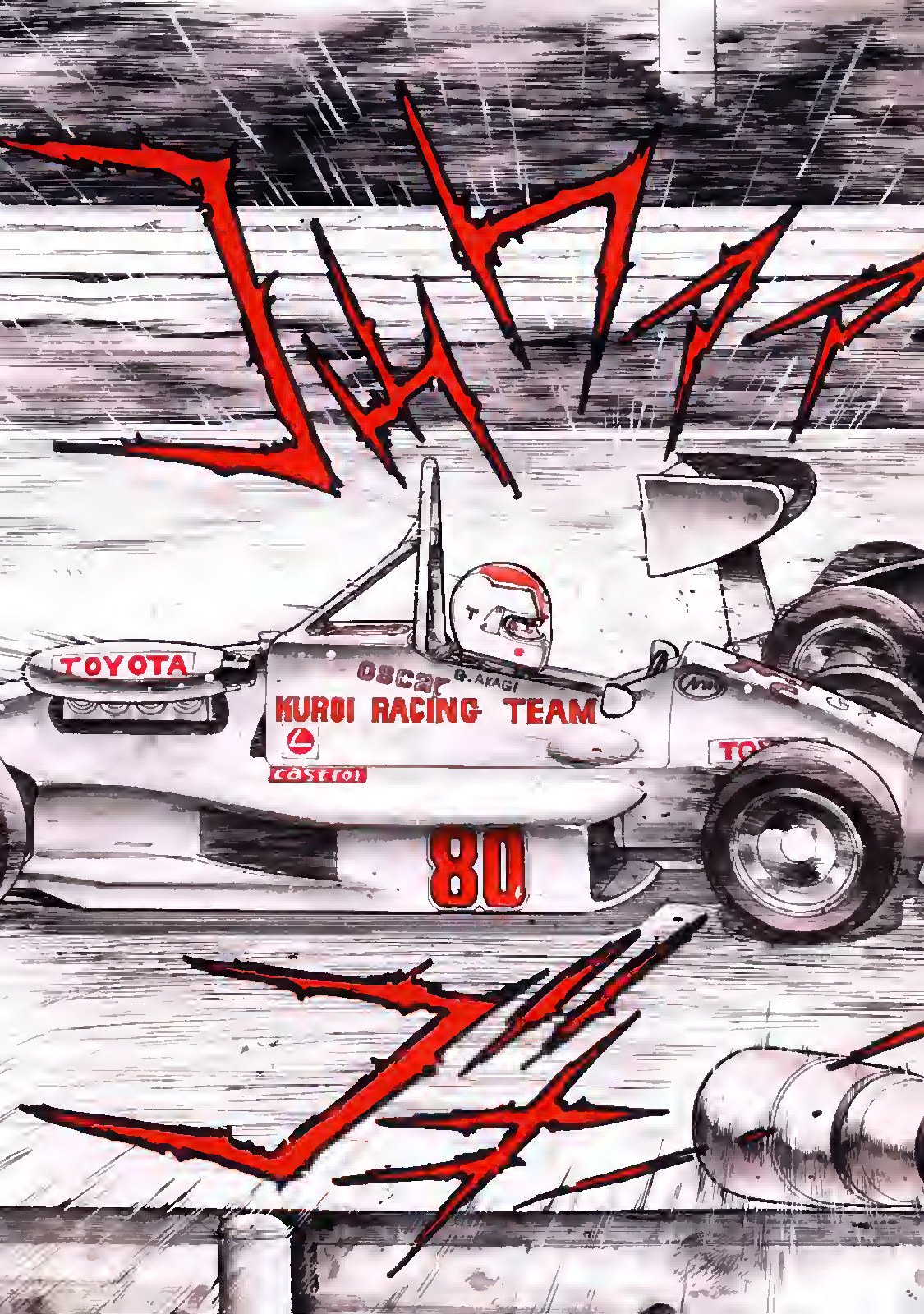


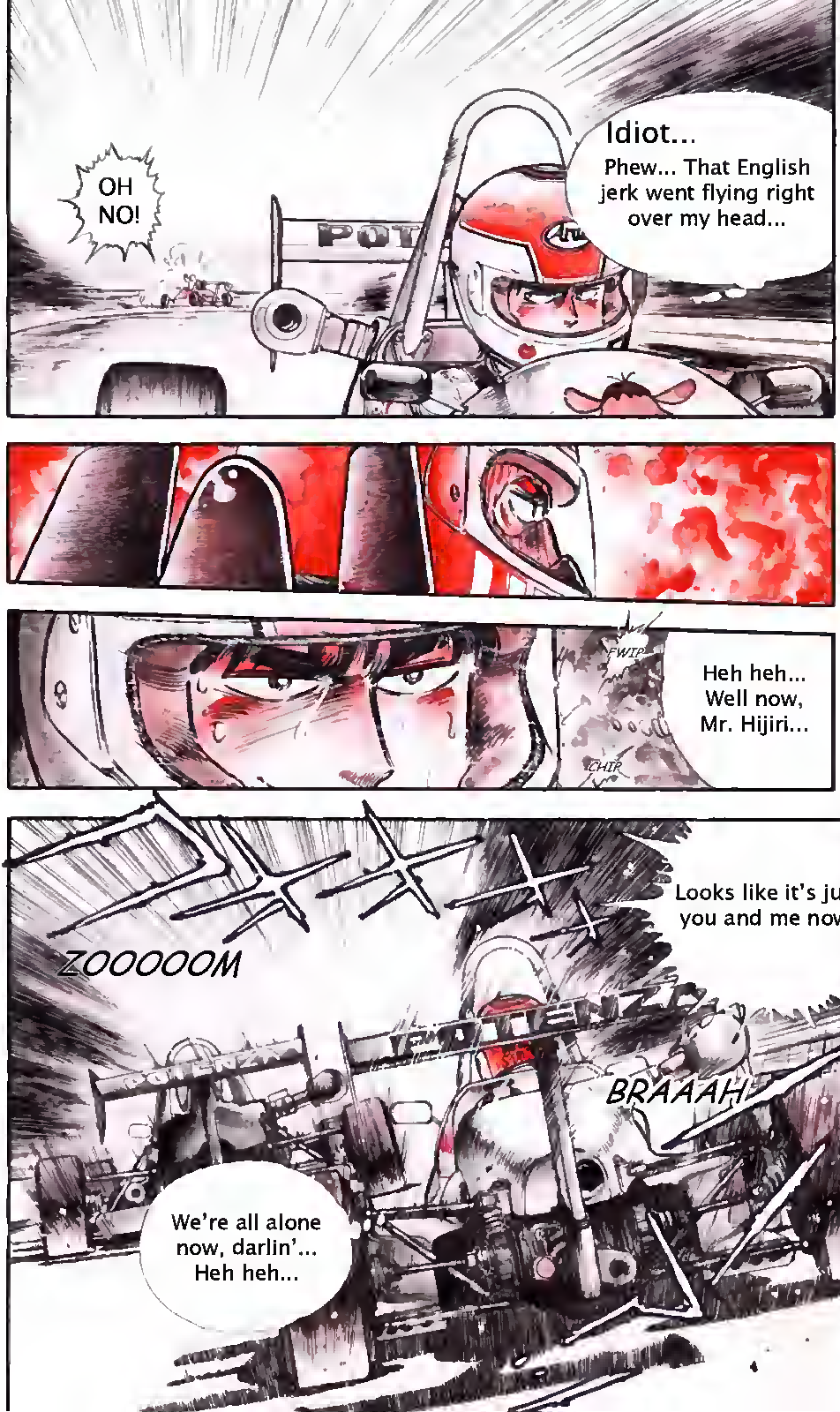

W-Woah...
SNAP
SNAP SNAP

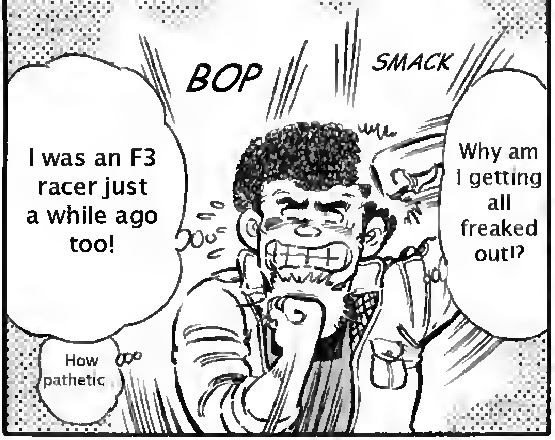
Chapter 10: Final(6)

ZOOOOOM
Wow...
HIZIRI
36
TEAM
TOYOTA
oscar
G. AKAGI
KUROI RACING TEAM
CASTROL
80
Whoa!
VROOOOOM


ZOOOOOM
Wow...
HIZIRI
36
TEAM 聖
Whoa!
VROOOOOM


TOYOTA
OSCAR
G.AKAGI
KUROI RACING TEAM
castrol
80


OH NO!
Idiot...
Phew... That English jerk went flying right over my head...
PWIP
CHIP
Heh heh... Well now, Mr. Hijiri...
ZOOOOOM
Looks like it's just you and me now!
BRAAAH
We're all alone now, darlin'... Heh heh...


BOP
SMACK
I was an F3 racer just a while ago too!
Why am I getting all freaked out!?
How pathetic

...
PRESS

Still, those two both had a hell of a presence...

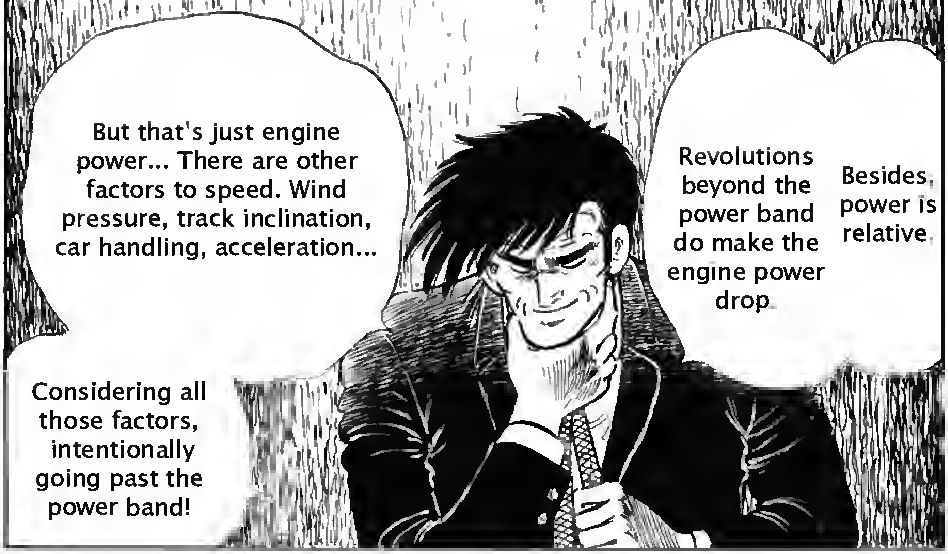
WOAH
No. 36 Kazuto Hijiri is now in the lead, with No. 80 Gunma Akagi right behind him!
Only five laps remaining!

Sure, I said I'd only photograph Gunma...
...but I should probably take some of that Hijiri guy too.
Damn it... I sure abandoned my principles as a cameraman quickly...

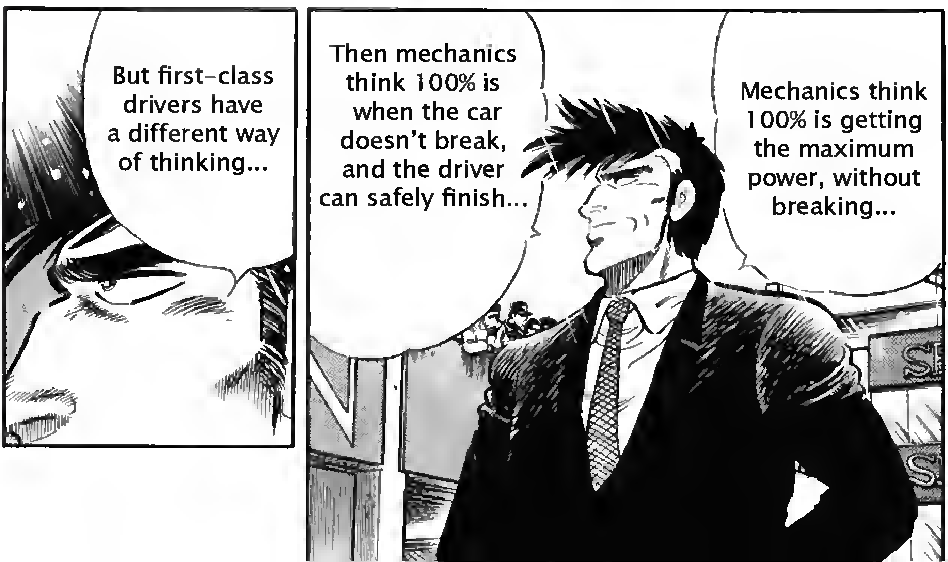
Go Mr. Hijiri, leave Gunma Akagi in your dust!
YEAH!
These two racers are pushing their cars to the limit!
ZOOOOM
VROOOM
You can't turn away for even a second!
...Um, Ms. Ruiko...
Even if Mr. Hijiri stays in the lead, if he starts showing symptoms...
...I'll use the stopper device in my pocket...
...

Wha...
It might not be possible...
Pass it... You've gotta pass Tamotsu's car!
God... damn it, Akagi, pass him!
BAM!!
Hijiri can race at 120%, but right now he's only racing at 100%.
Why would you say that!?
What did you say, Kuroi!?
I'm a mechanic! Let me tell you, there's no such thing as 120% potential! 100% is the best you can get!
Ha, what are you talking about? I don't believe you!
...you ran out of oil up here. Is that why it's squeaking?
Spending all your time fixing cars...
You've gotten old, Eijiro...
I see...

In other words, that's 100%. Beyond that ain't 120%, it's 90, 80, 70%!
E-Engines reach peak performance in a certain rev band, revving them more just reduces the power and can break them!
GRR
Or are you so decrepit that a little oil won't help anymore...?
What if it didn't break?
Why do I have to explain this basic crap to you now...!?
Or... what if the driver didn't care if the engine broke...
!?
...and in the end, it happened to not break...

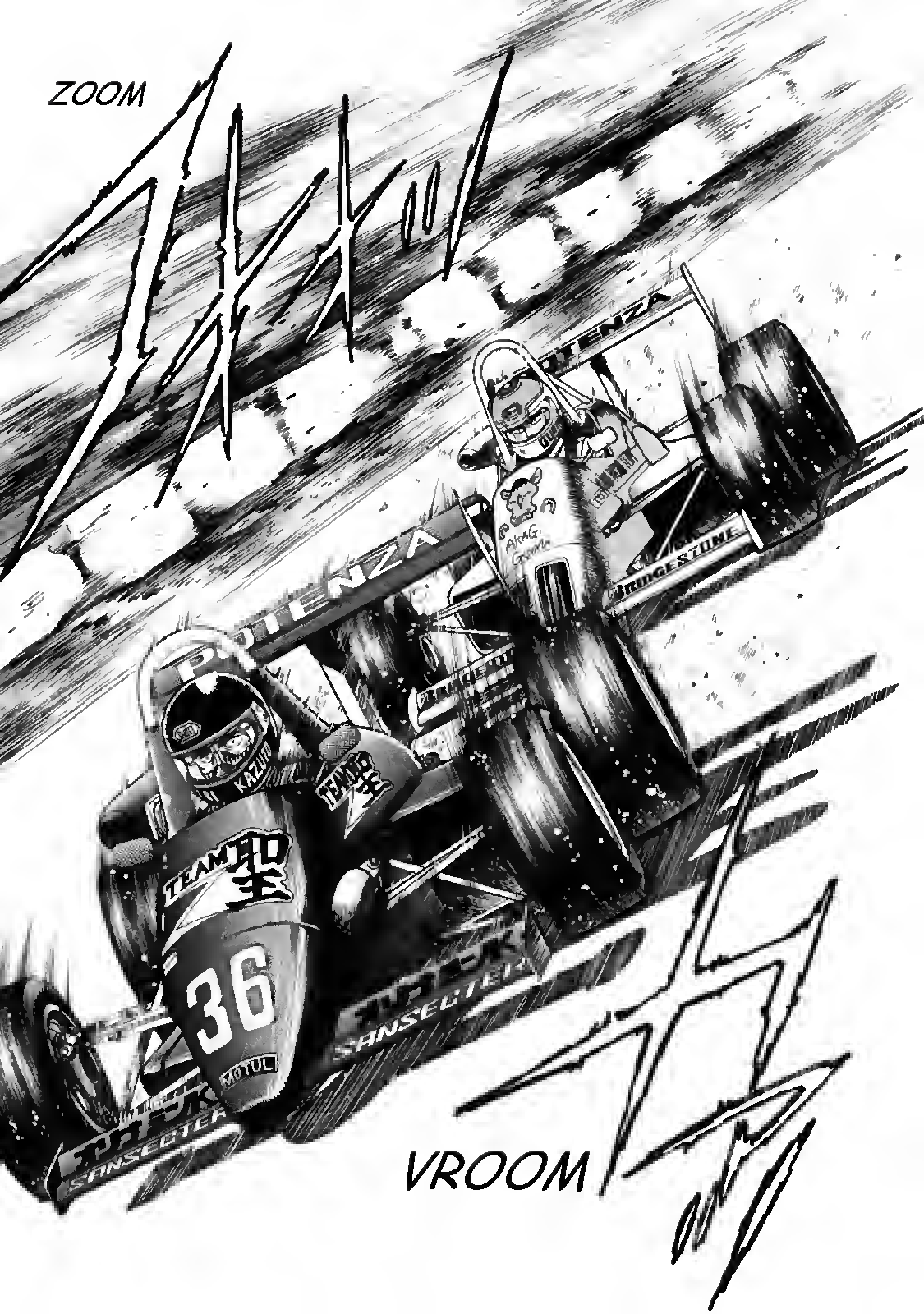

But that's just engine power... There are other factors to speed. Wind pressure, track inclination, car handling, acceleration...
Revolutions beyond the power band do make the engine power drop.
Besides, power is relative.
Considering all those factors, intentionally going past the power band!

Only drivers who have overcome a certain limit can understand this.
In that case, a well-tuned car will have a second power band!


But first-class drivers have a different way of thinking...
Then mechanics think 100% is when the car doesn't break, and the driver can safely finish...
Mechanics think 100% is getting the maximum power, without breaking...

...
and push the limits harder!
The car's already at peak power, and it might break down... At this rate, I'll eventually crash and maybe die...
But I'll leave all that up to God...

They understand...
...if you don't overcome your limits, you cannot become one of the chosen ones.

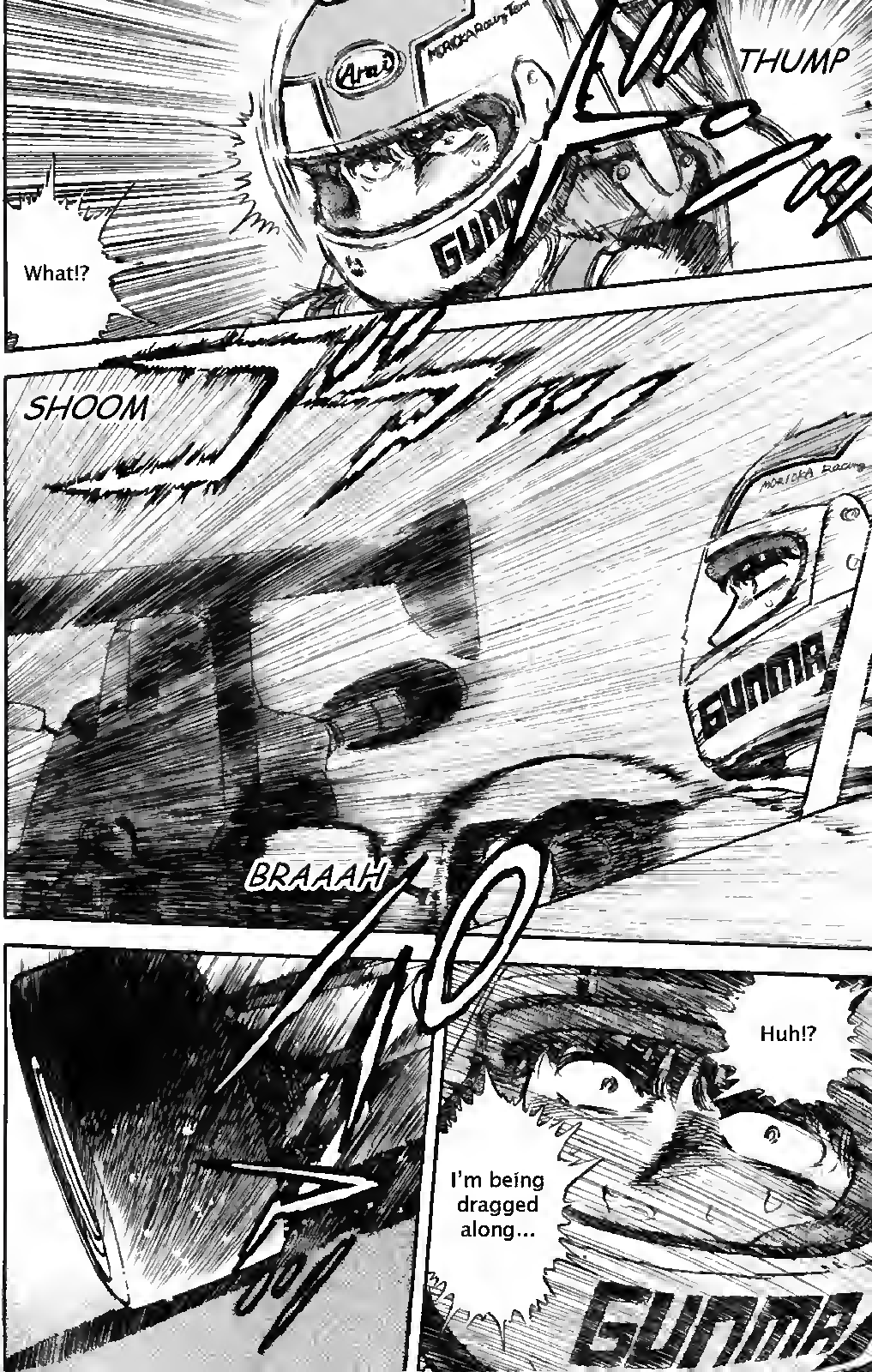

ZOOM
POTENZA
BRIDGESTONE
TEAM 36
KAZUKI
36
MOTUL
SANSECTER
VROOM

If I let down my guard, I could go out of course at any second.
Heh... Damn... He's keeping a pretty good pace.
But his racing during practice had to have been faster. I mean, he totally left me in his dust!
This seems like it should be the limit...
No, no way...
Is he going to go beyond this!?
Make sure to stay on my tail, and I'll show you something interesting!
!
I can't get any more speed...
Weird... This is the limit...
VRRR
Unless... Was I imagining that...!?

...I am listening to the engine with my whole body.
Right now...
BOOM BOOM BOOM

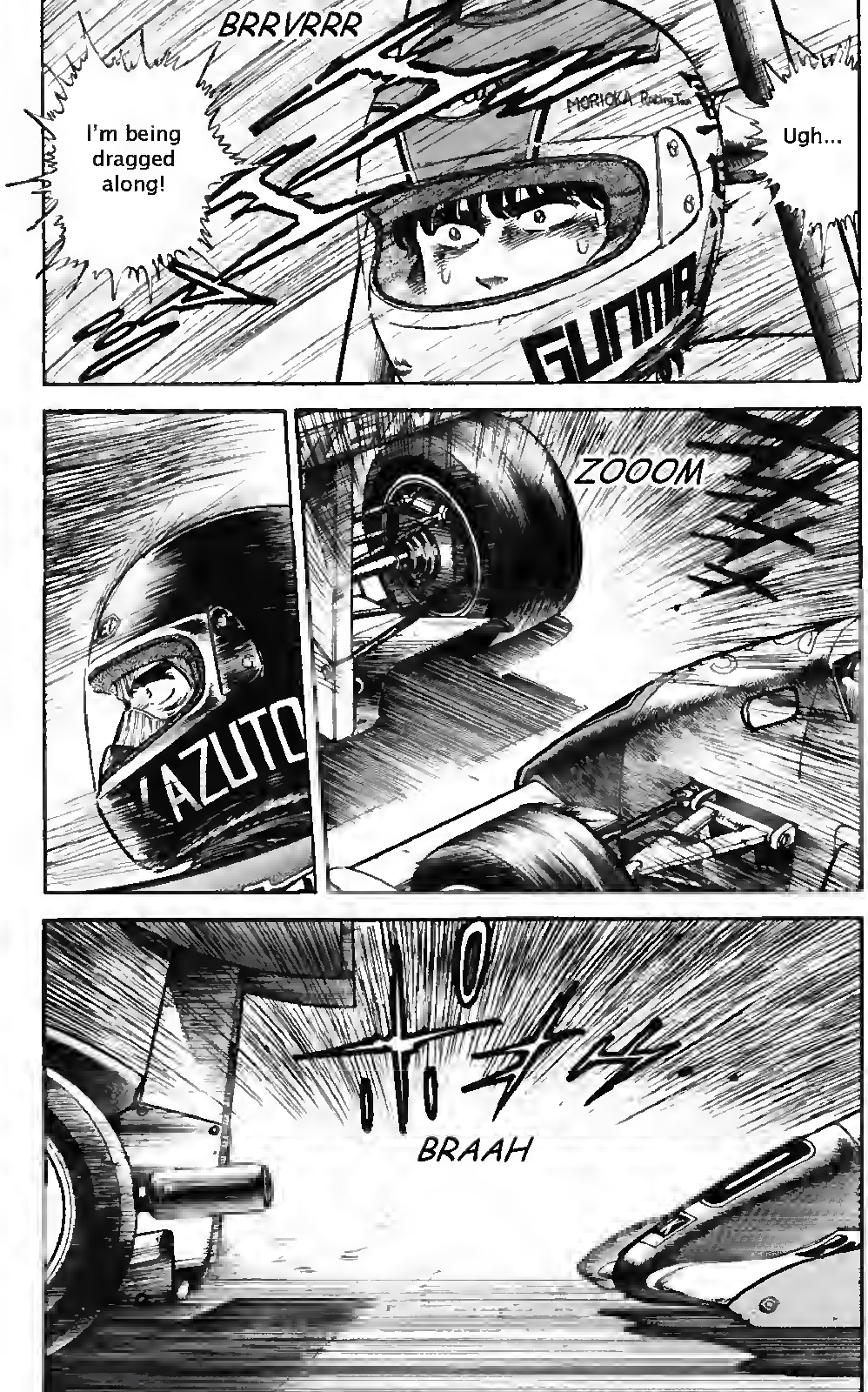
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
Sing, sing more...

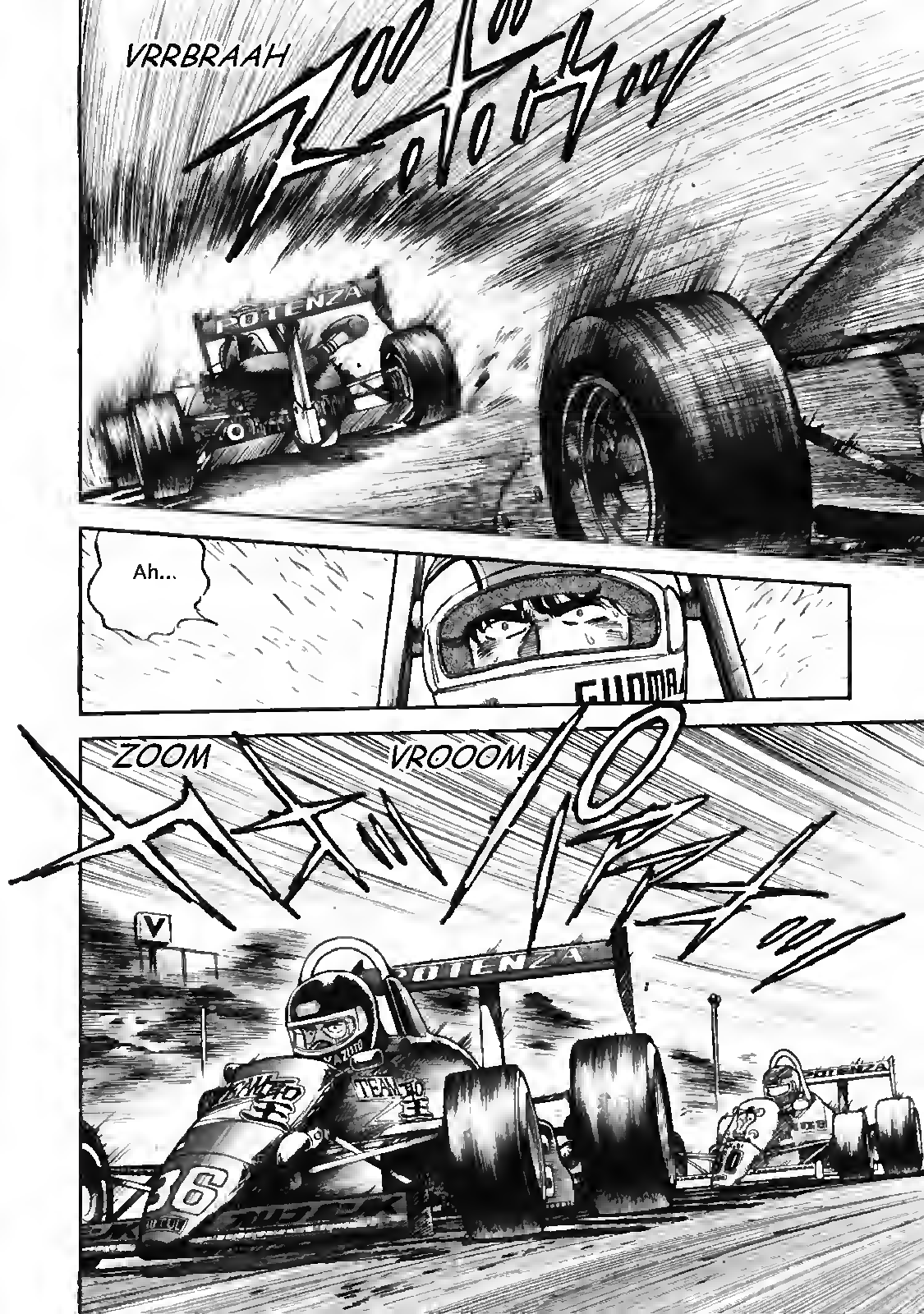
Arai
MOMOKA
Man, what a sucker I am! Falling for Hijiri's bluff hook, line and sinker!
That's it, I'm going to make a move!
80
VRROOM
Oh! Akagi has moved into Hijiri's slipstream!
36
KUROI RACING TEAM
Will he pass!?

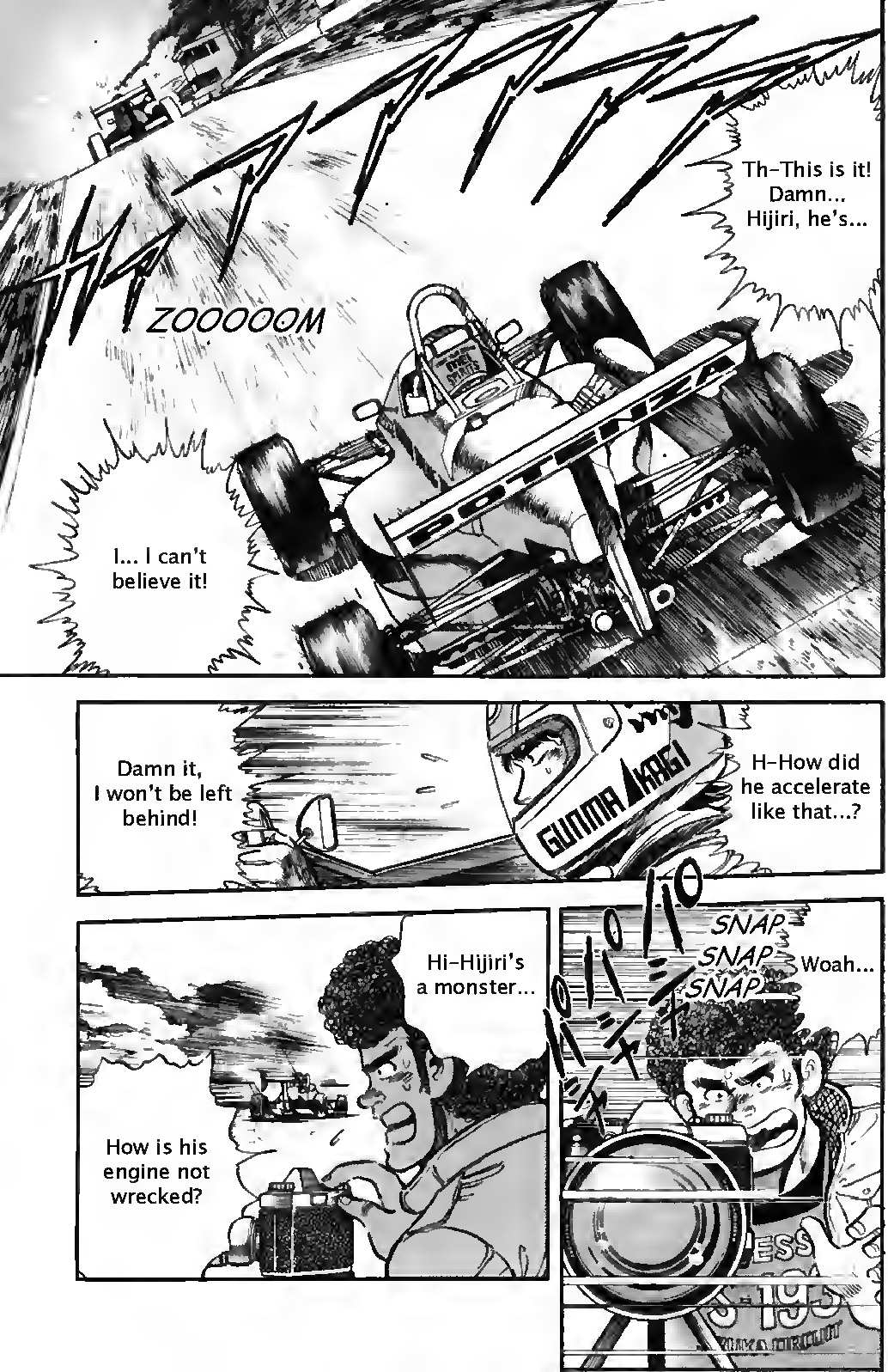

THUMP
What!?
SHOOM
BRAAAH
Huh!?
I'm being dragged along...
GUNMA

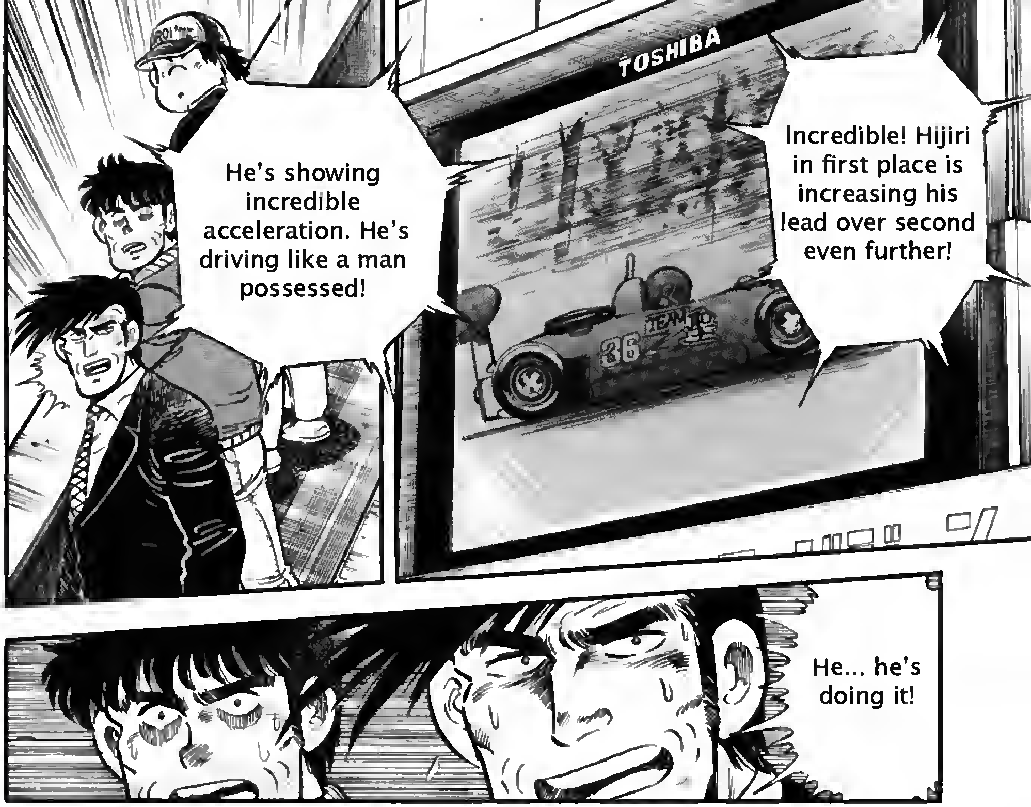
ZOOM
VROOM

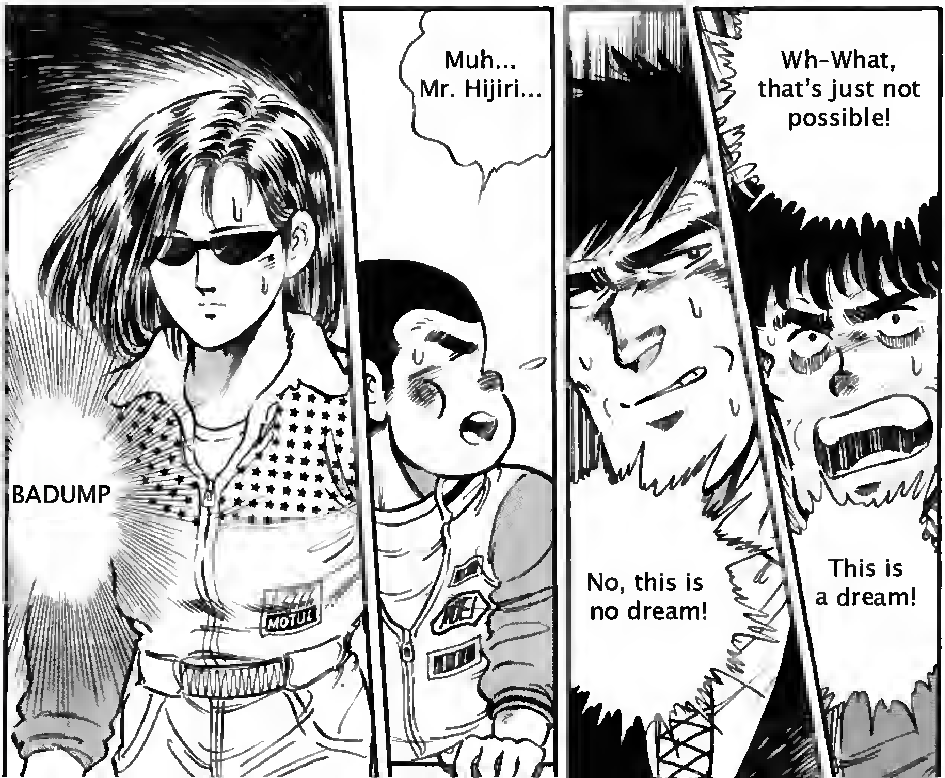
Chapter 11:
Final (7)
POTENZA
POTENZA


BRRVRRR
I'm being dragged along!
Ugh...
GUNMA
AZUTO
ZOOOM
BRAAH


VRRBRAAH
POTENZA
Ah...
ZOOM
VROOOM
POTENZA

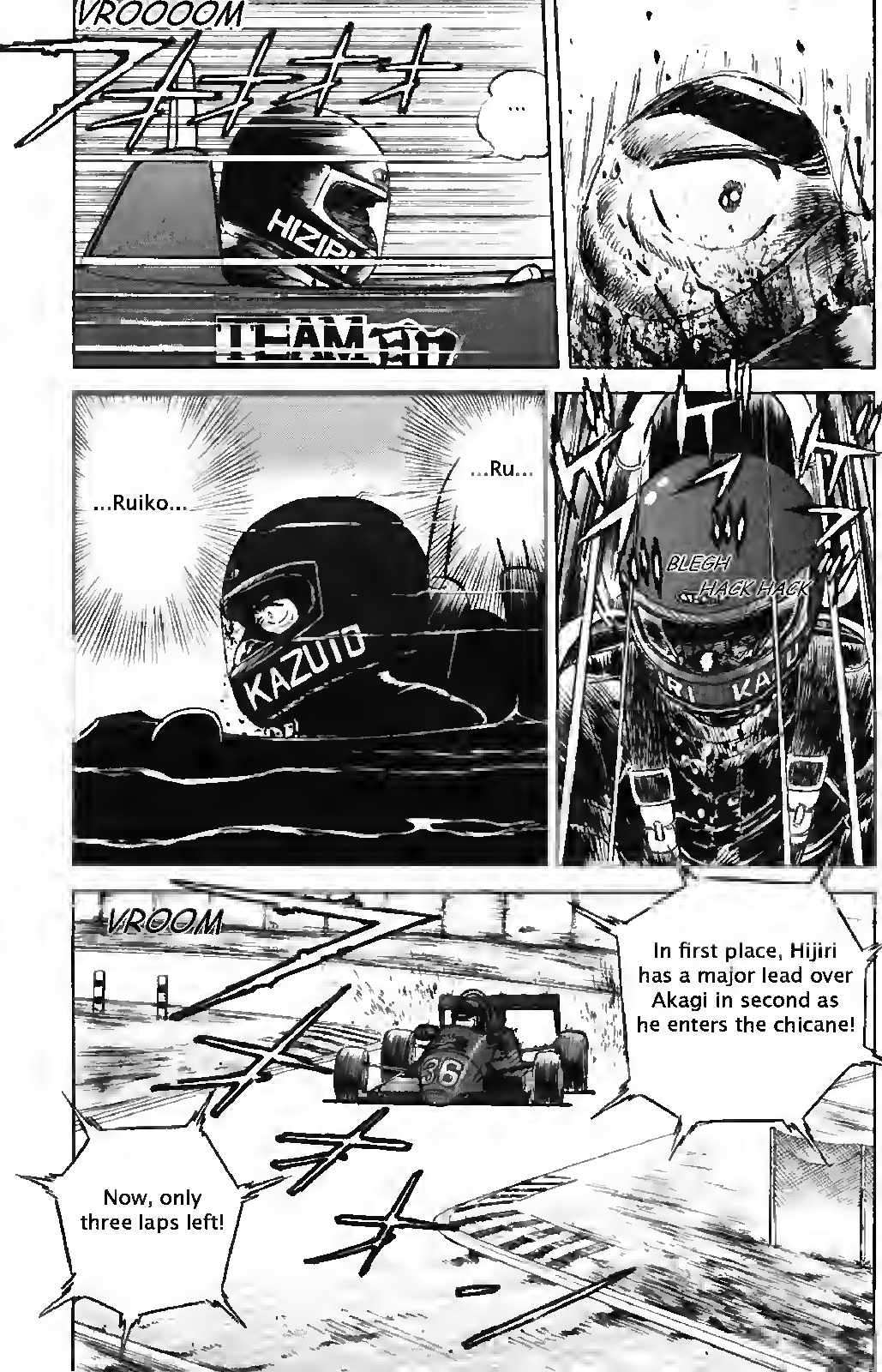

ZOOOOOM
Th-This is it! Damn... Hijiri, he's...
I... I can't believe it!
Damn it, I won't be left behind!
GUNMA AKAGI
H-How did he accelerate like that...?
Hi-Hijiri's a monster...
How is his engine not wrecked?
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
Woah...

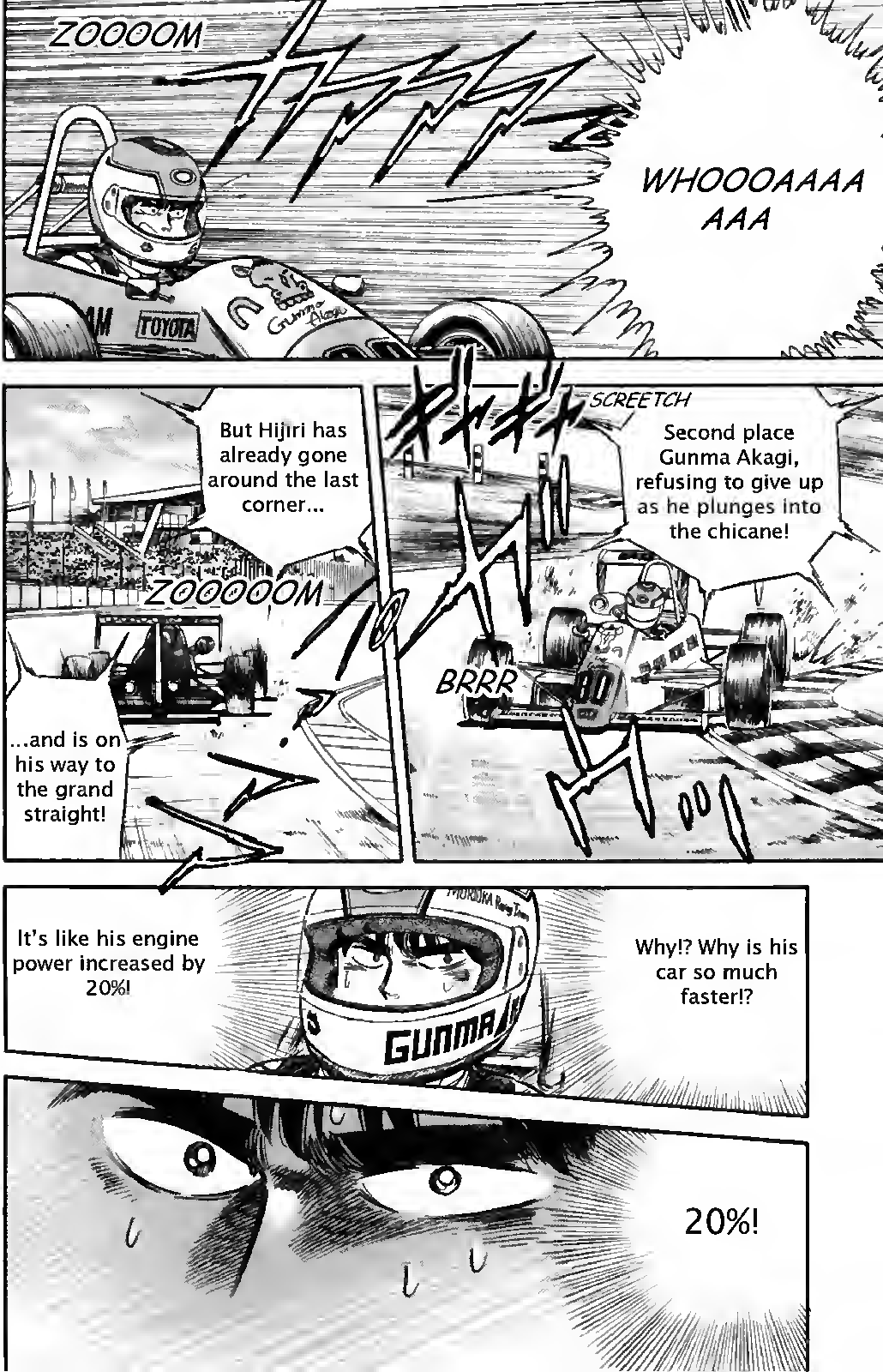

He's showing incredible acceleration. He's driving like a man possessed!
TOSHIBA
Incredible! Hijiri in first place is increasing his lead over second even further!
He... he's doing it!


Muh... Mr. Hijiri...
BADUMP
Wh-What, that's just not possible!
No, this is no dream!
This is a dream!

This is... the end... The end for me and Kazuto...
...This is it...
Tamotsu, please win.
MUMBLE
Tamotsu please win
MUMBLE
The world...

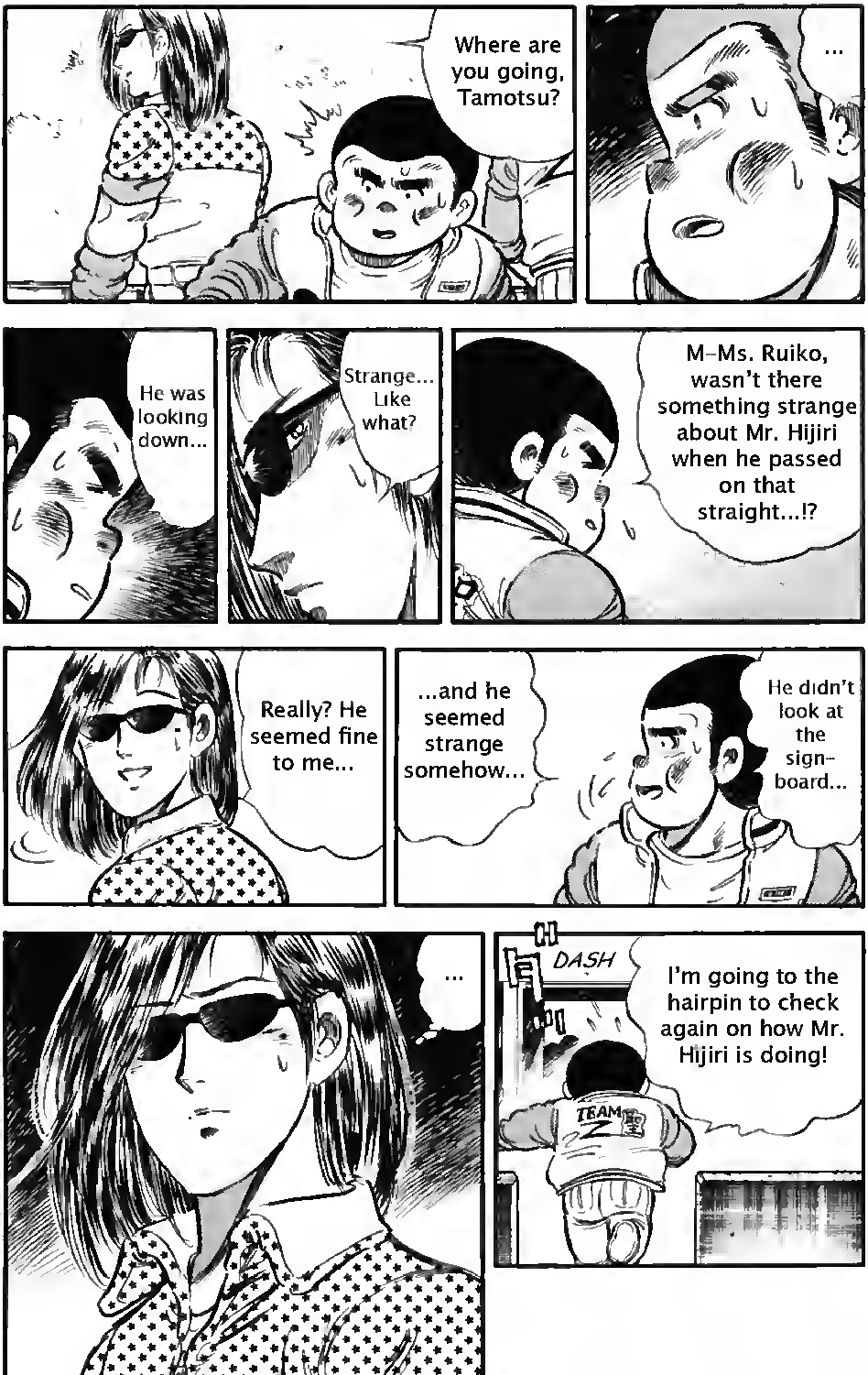
...is in my hands...
SHOEI
HIZIRI KAZ
BLEGH
KAZ


VROOOOM
HIZIRI
I LAM an
...Ruiko...
...Ru...
KAZUTO
BLEGH
HACK HACK
VROOM
36
In first place, Hijiri has a major lead over Akagi in second as he enters the chicane!
Now, only three laps left!


ZOOOOM
WHOOOAAAA AAA
TOYOTA
But Hijiri has already gone around the last corner...
ZOOOOOM
...and is on his way to the grand straight!
SCREETCH
Second place Gunma Akagi, refusing to give up as he plunges into the chicane!
BRRR
It's like his engine power increased by 20%!
GUNMA
Why!? Why is his car so much faster!?
20%!

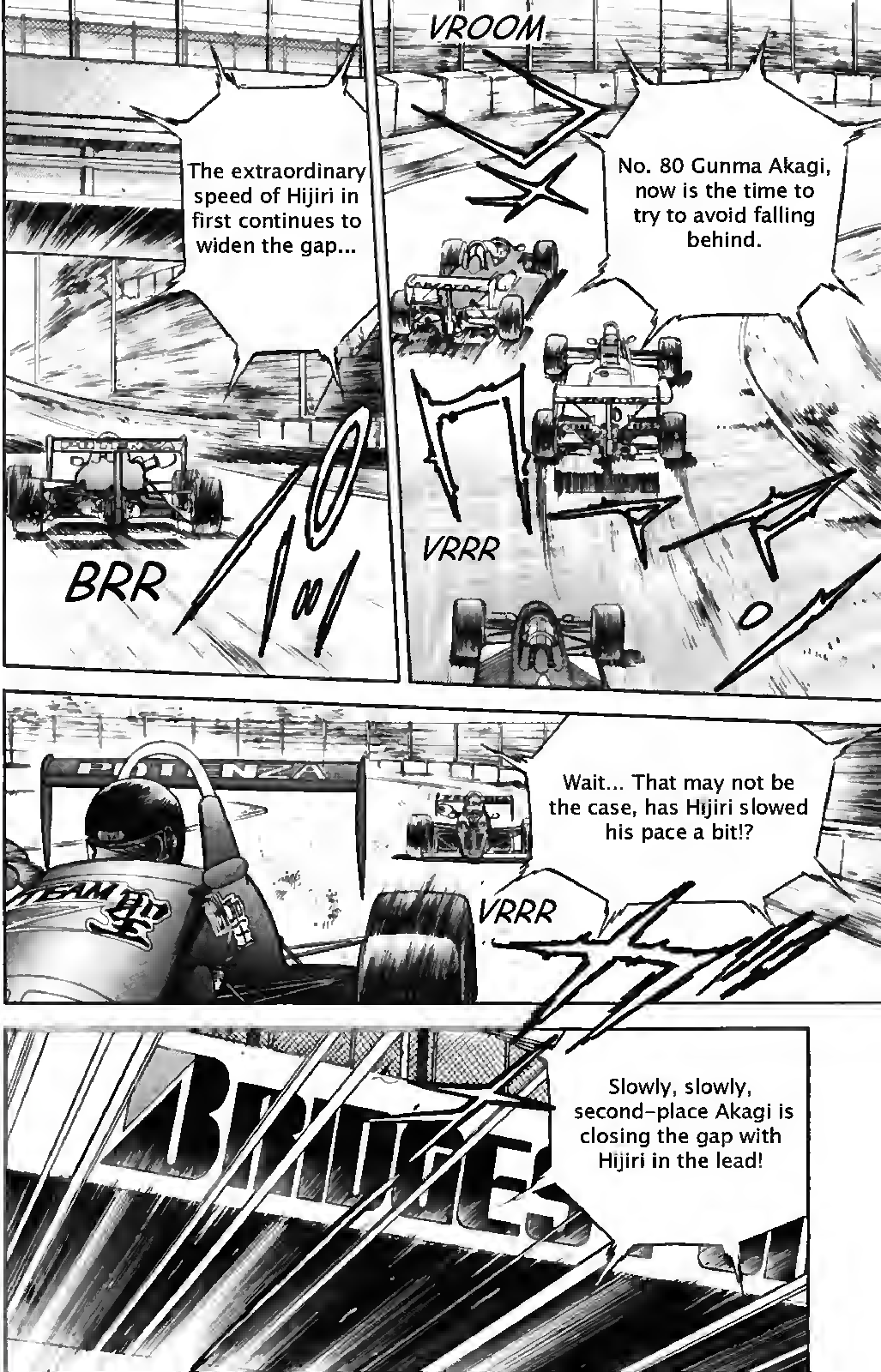
Arai
The driver's domain...
To win races, you need an extra 20%... That's the driver's domain.
Even a mechanic can drive with 100% of a car's potential.
SHIVER
Gunma
...is because something happened to Hijiri himself!
QUIVER QUIVER
The reason Hijiri took off like that...
Hot damn...
As of right now, I think I love you!
Hijiri...
QUIVER QUIVER
QUIVER QUIVER

10年後…
ZOOM
VRROOOM
PONZA
TEAM
36
What speed! Amazing speed!
No. 36 Kazuto Hijiri, passing the grandstand with a commanding lead!
Wha...
It won't break, that engine was tuned by your son...
Why isn't the engine breaking down right now!?
No way! His speed is already beyond the potential of an F3 machine!

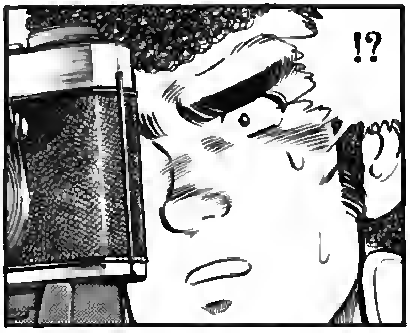

Where are you going, Tamotsu?
...
He was looking down...
Strange... Like what?
M-Ms. Ruiko, wasn't there something strange about Mr. Hijiri when he passed on that straight...!?
Really? He seemed fine to me...
...and he seemed strange somehow...
He didn't look at the sign-board...
...
DASH
I'm going to the hairpin to check again on how Mr. Hijiri is doing!
TEAM

But... I've already replaced the stopper device you have with a fake...
I'm impressed, Tamotsu...
You've already noticed something's wrong.
...he won't stop even if it kills him.
Yes... Until that checker flag waves...
So no matter how hard you try to stop Kazuto...
GRIP
...he won't stop.
I have the real one here...
ZOOOOOM
FORMULA

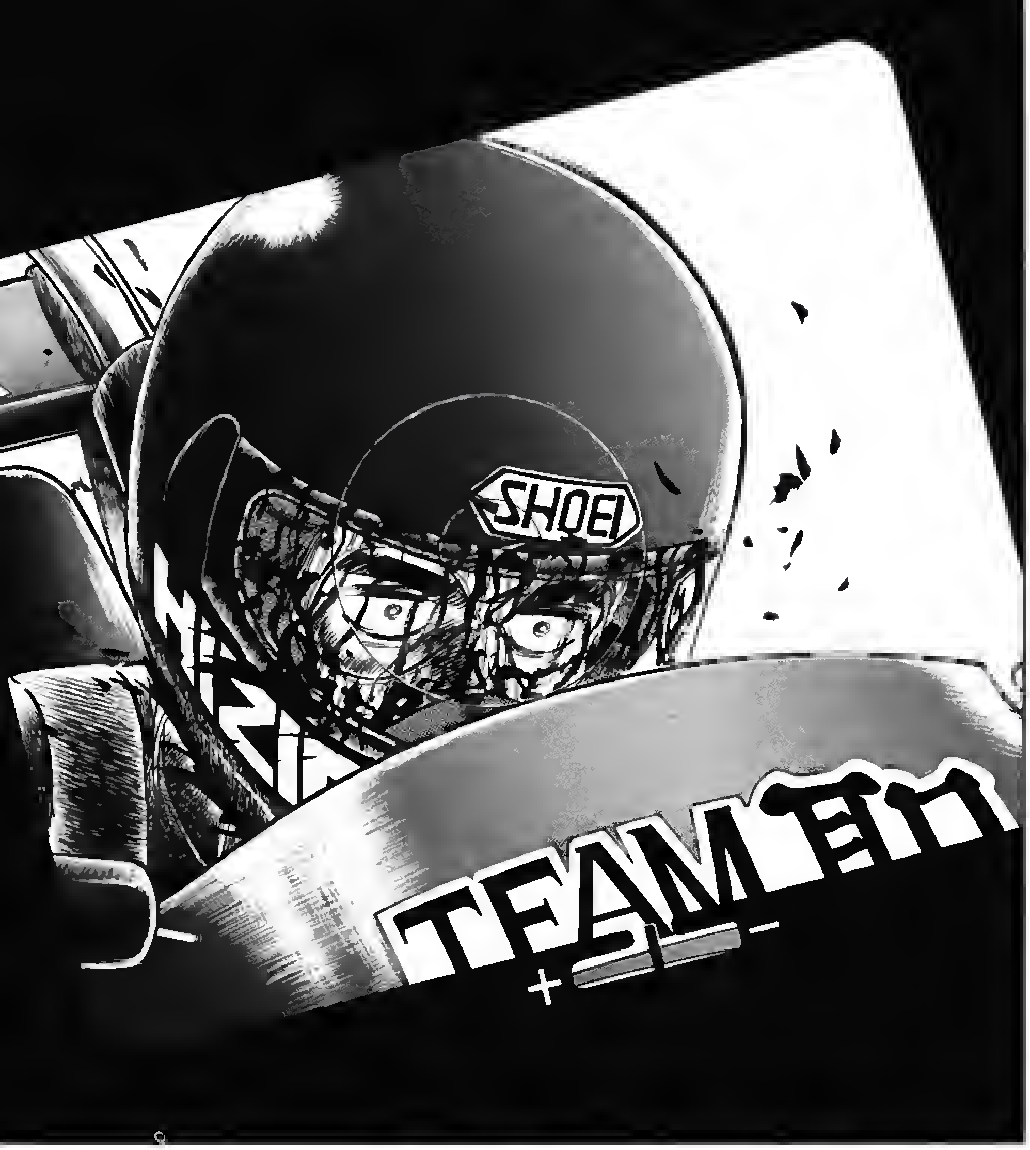
I don't care if I blow this thing...
H-Hijiri...
Even if I destroy both my car and my body...
I'm comin' for ya...
...Hijiri!
80
NGK
BRIDGESTONE
BRIDGESTONE


The extraordinary speed of Hijiri in first continues to widen the gap...
BRR
VROOM
No. 80 Gunma Akagi, now is the time to try to avoid falling behind.
VRRR
PITENZA
Wait... That may not be the case, has Hijiri slowed his pace a bit!?
VRRR
BRIDGE
Slowly, slowly, second-place Akagi is closing the gap with Hijiri in the lead!

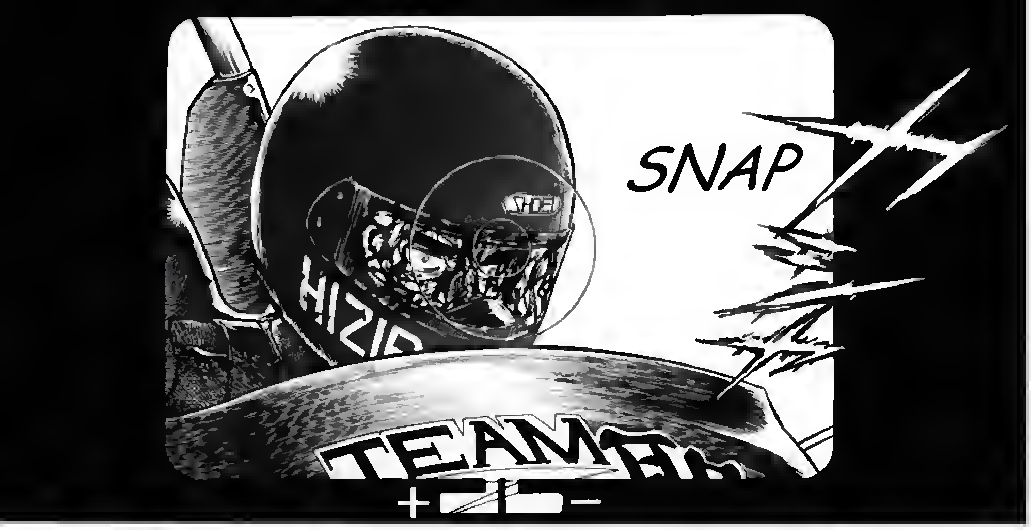
VRRROOOM
POTENZA
TEAM
36
オリナミンK


!?

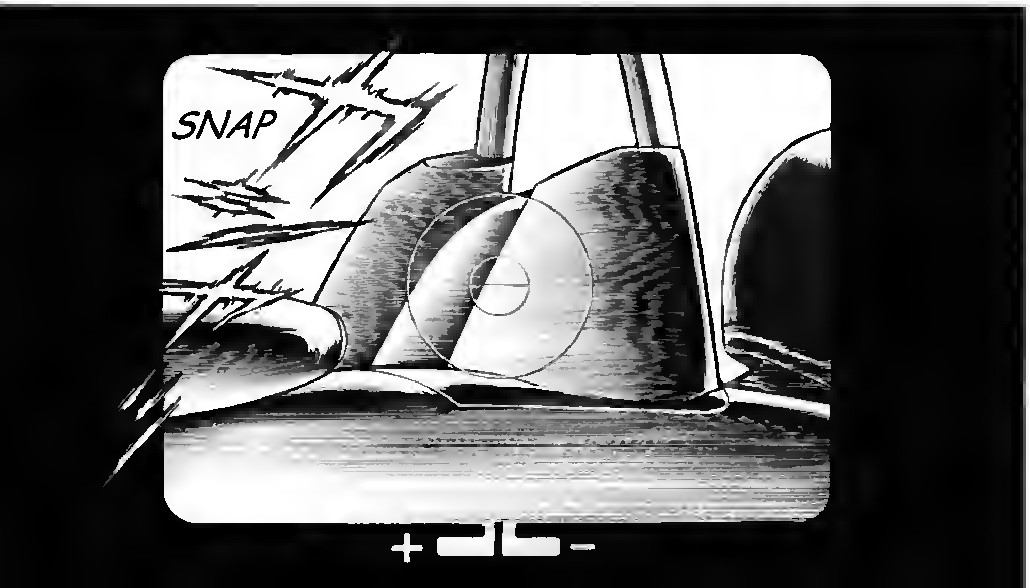
Heh heh, I'll get a sweet shot zoomed right in!
Here they come!

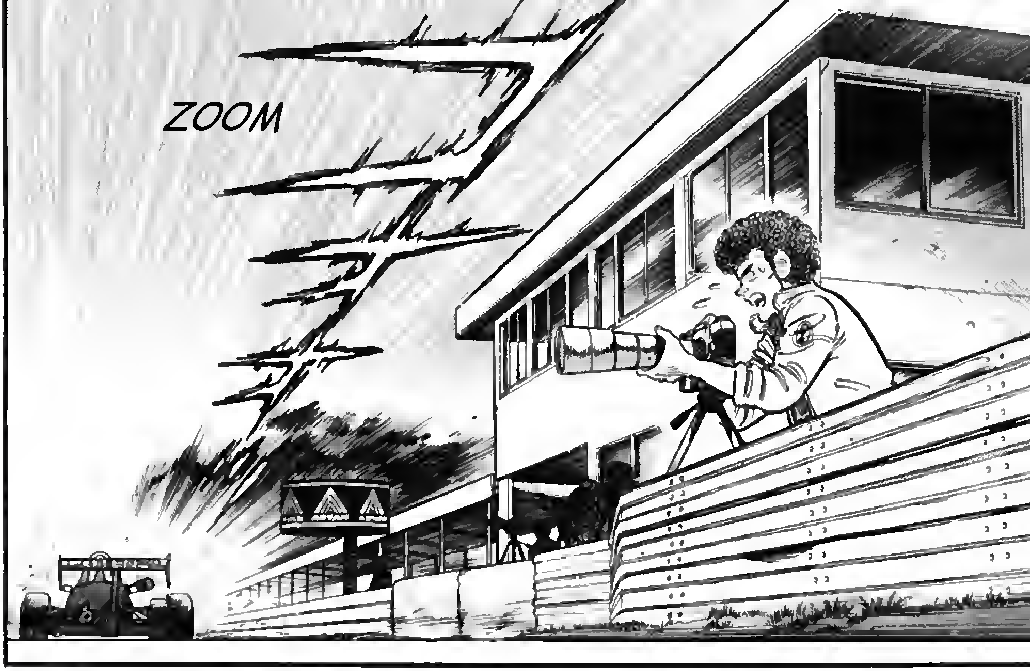

SHOEI
TEAM

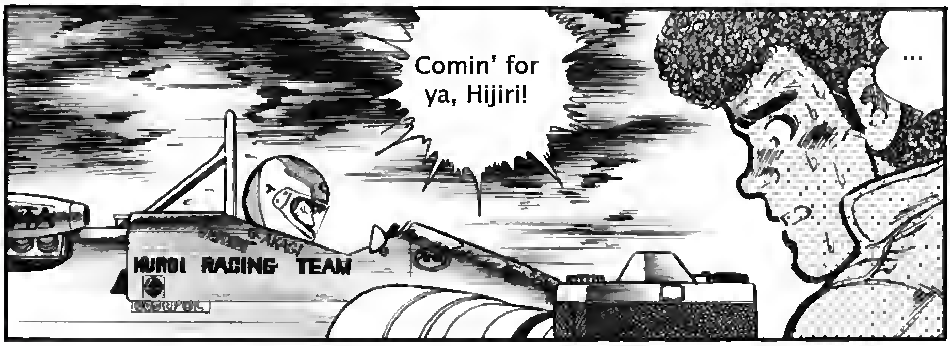
Woo–
aaah!
Uh!



Chapter 12: Final




ZOOM

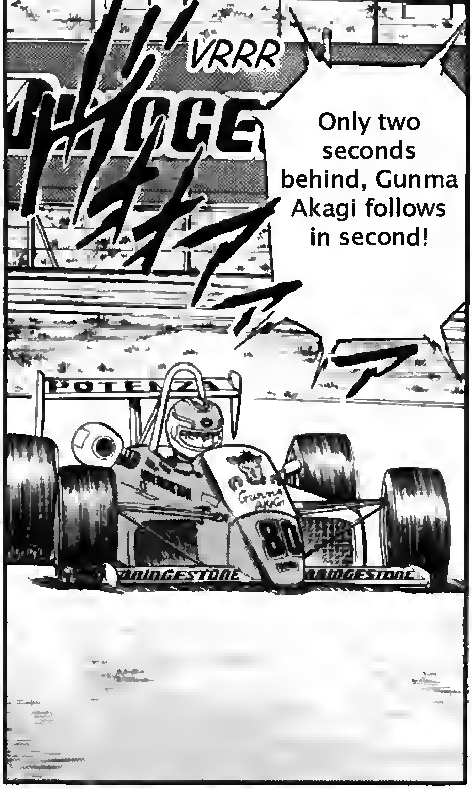

Comin' for ya, Hijiri!
...
KUROI RACING TEAM

Woaah!
Uh...
...

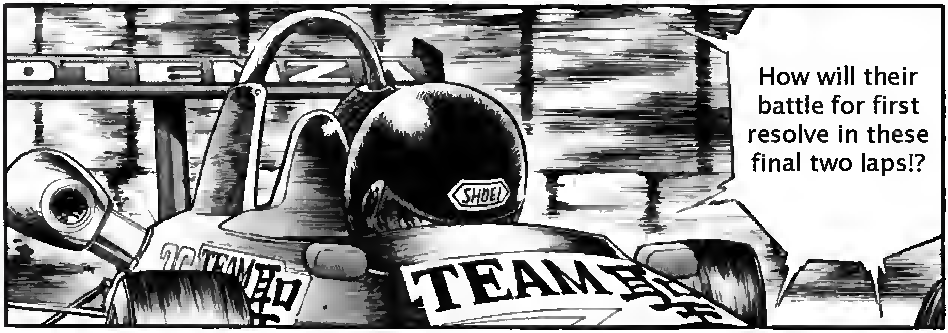
HIZIRI

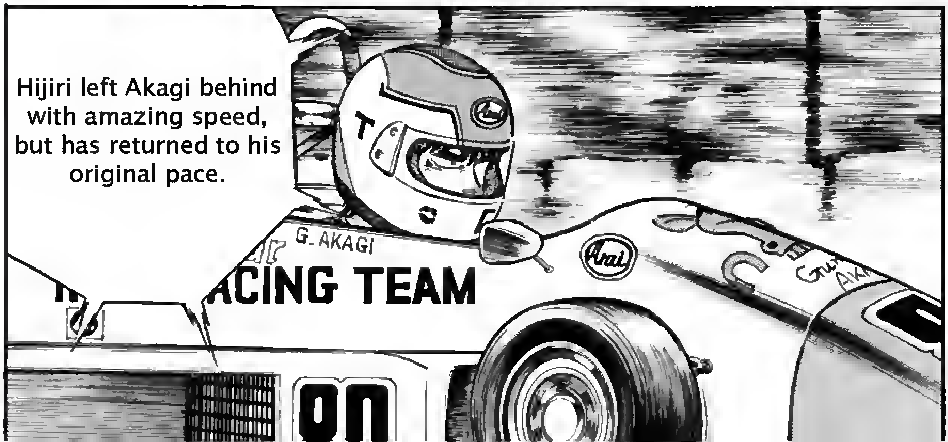
?
WOBBLE WOBBLE
PRESS
S-627
L-Let go!
Wh-What's wrong with you...!?
Did you get a picture!? Of Hijiri in first. Huh!? Did you!?
Hey, you, did you see that!?
Then you must have seen it too! The visor of Hijiri's helmet covered in blood!
You must have! He's in first. You couldn't have missed it!
Huh? What's wrong!?
I'm asking, did you get a picture or not!?
Blood ...!?
...Blood ...
Of Hijiri's face!

No need to get so excited.
Oh, I get it, you're a new photographer.
TAP
I said blood! You hear me!? Blood!
Is this guy okay...?
What are you talking about?
...Oil ...
You probably just saw oil, man. Oil. Just some oil on his visor!
It happens a lot, watching an exciting race, you get excited too...
...Oil...
...was it...
...just.. oil...?
So, don't worry about it.
PAT
I was focused on the car... But I think there was oil or something on there.
Did you notice anything?
Hey, we've been doing this for 10 years, no way we'd miss something like that!


VRRR
Only two seconds behind, Gunma Akagi follows in second!
POTENZA
80
BRIDGESTONE

No. 36 Kazuto Hijiri, still in the lead as he exits the final corner and begins lap 14!
VRROOM
TEAM
36


How will their battle for first resolve in these final two laps!?
SHOEI
TEAM


Hijiri left Akagi behind with amazing speed, but has returned to his original pace.
G. AKAGI
80

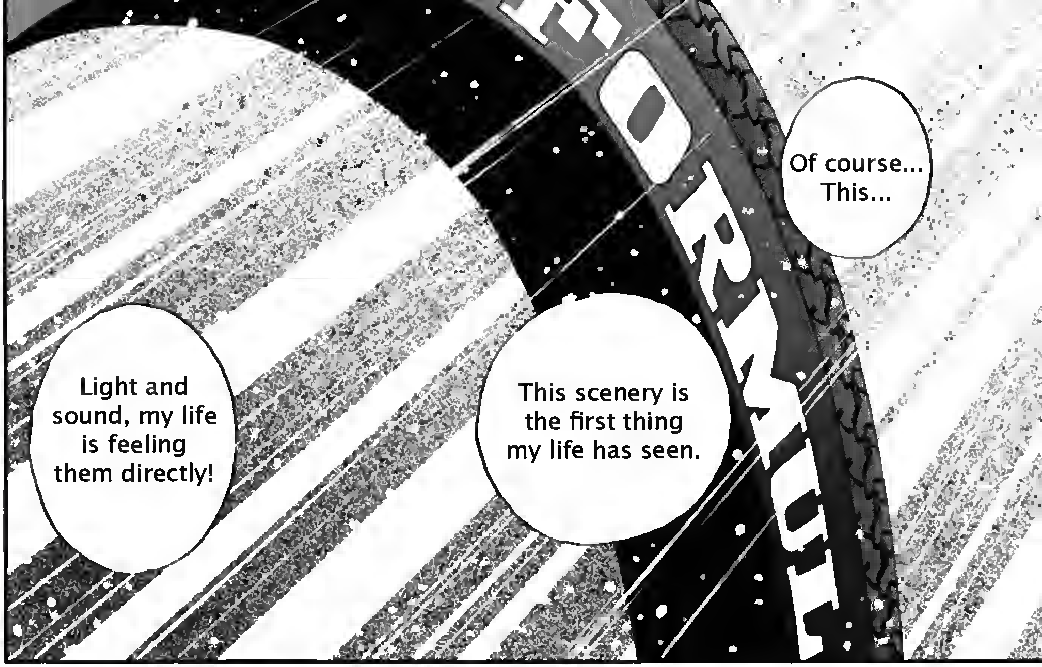
Just now, they've passed by the grandstand!
VROOOM
!
Wow!
WOOSH
TEAM
TEAM

Huh? Where'd Tamotsu go?
He doesn't care about his time.
It looked like he was napping in the cockpit.
HEHEHEH
Man, Mr. Hijiri is confident about this.
He didn't even glance at the signboard.
Sorry, but I don't feel very well, I'll be at the hotel.
Man, he should take this more seriously.
TEAM
Tamotsu said he was going to the hairpin curve...
There'll be a celebration.
Don't worry...
It's almost over, we should all celebrate together!
Huh ...?
...
...you two clowns.
I'll leave the rest to you...

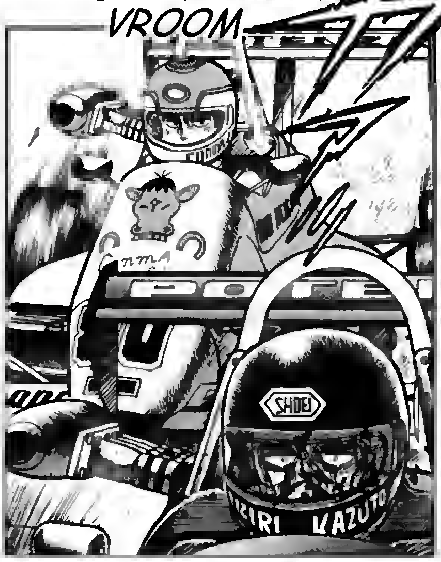
SHOEI
The S-curve..
RIKAZUTI
VROOM
PITENZA
...my senses seem sharper than ever.
Even though my whole body is being paralyzed by this final attack...
Stran-ge...
Engine sounds... Valve movements, plugs sparking... Every piston action... Everything...!
I can feel the suspension, the tires, the frame.
All like the back of my hand...

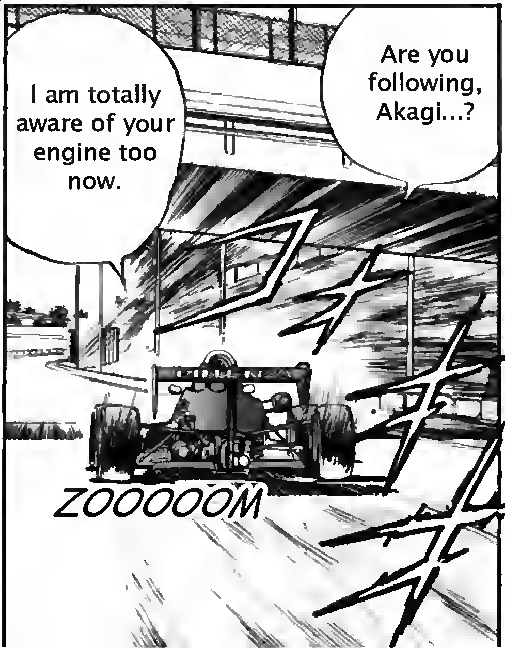
The track...
I can see the track surface.
Each individual grain of asphalt...
Flecks of oil people spilled...
The carcasses (*) of tires left on the outside...
It's all... shining...
* Bits of tire rubber left on the track.
...
It's shining!
Not just the track... the trees, grass, the sky... Everything around me...
Incredible ...
I... I can't believe I've been living in such a beautiful world...!
It's shining, shining, shining...

HUSH...
DUNLOP
FORMULA
POTENZA
FORMULA

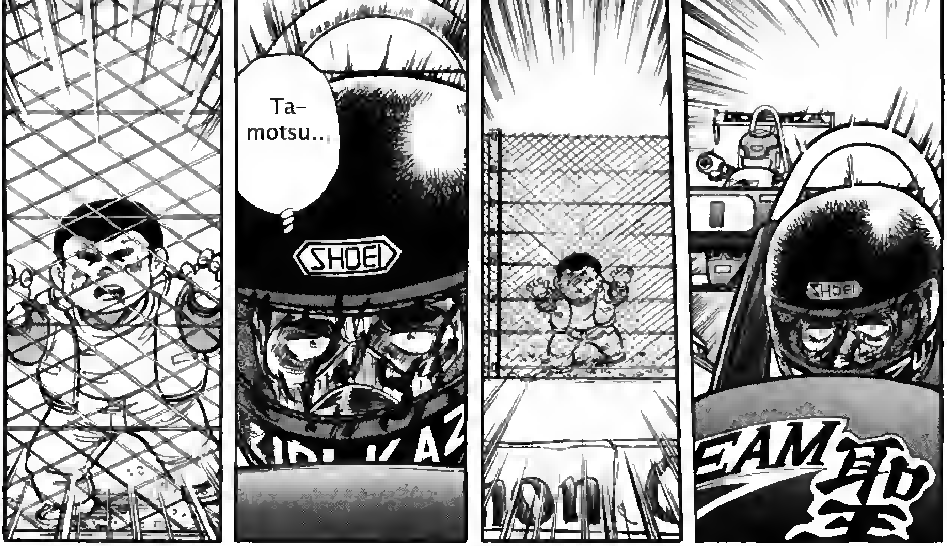

Light and sound, my life is feeling them directly!
This scenery is the first thing my life has seen.
Of course... This...

...my life is trying to feel the world on its own!
Not my eyes or ears! Faced with this unreasonable cut-off...

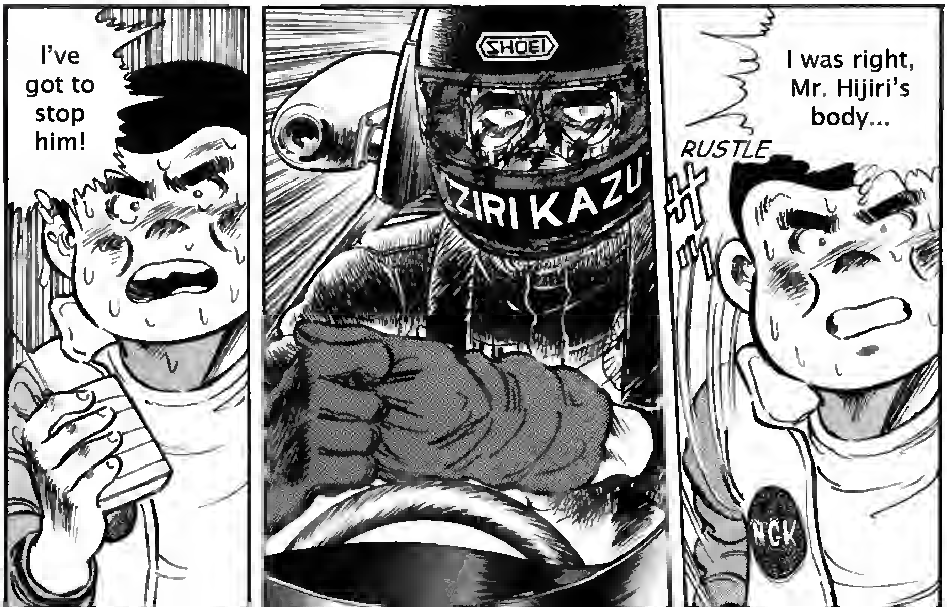

VROOM
SHOEI


I am totally aware of your engine too now.
Are you following, Akagi...?
ZOOOOOM

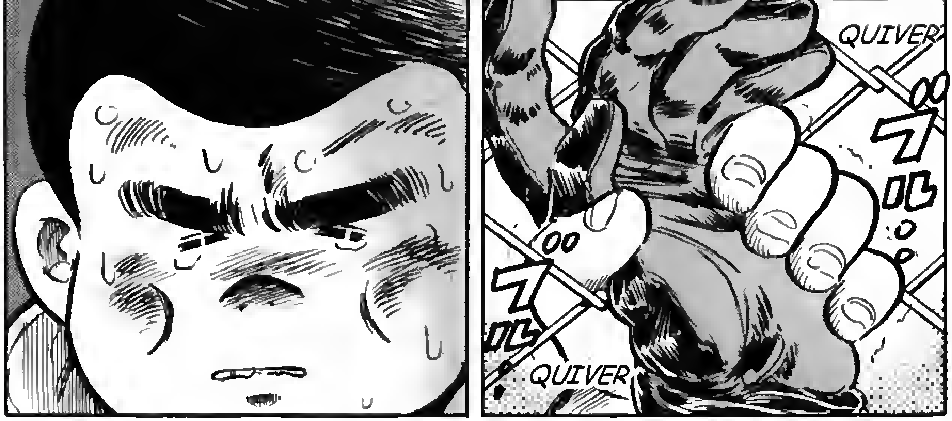
Huff
Huff
Huff
The top two cars are going through the Degner curve to the hairpin!
ZOOOOOM
I've got to check on Mr. Hijiri at the hairpin, the slowest spot!
SLAM
I've got to hurry!
Sorry Momma...
...I will stop his car!
GRAB
Then if things seem even a little strange...
There he is!
ZOOOM
TEAM


Ta-
motsu..
SHOEI

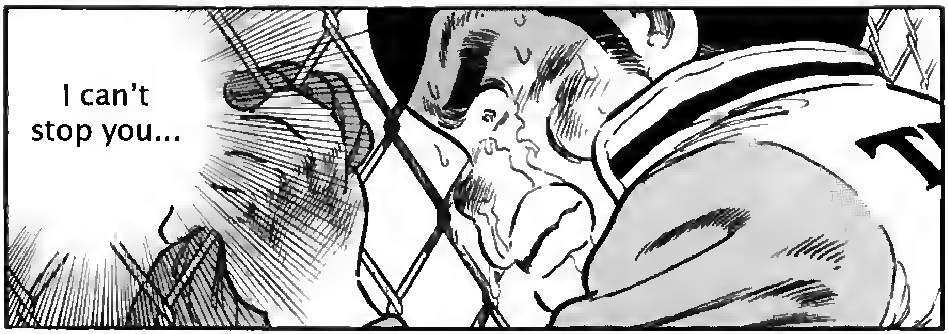
GRIN
...Blood...!!
Thank you Tamotsu. This car of yours was the greatest gift.

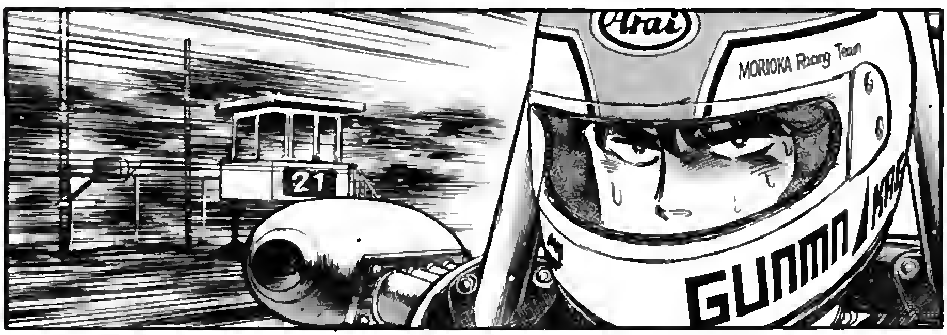

I've got to stop him!
SHOEI
ZIRI KAZU
I was right, Mr. Hijiri's body...
RUSTLE

The world's yours, Tamotsu! Seize it!
Go with Akagi!
TEAM
36
ZOOOOOM
FLOP
!!
SHOE


QUIVER
QUIVER

Mr. Hiji...ri...
I... I... I can't stop you...





"F" Volume 7 THE END

F VOL.7

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